

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCER

VOL. 20 No. 959 - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1999

• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST • PUBLICATIONS NO. NBQ5726

WEEKLY \$3.00

KOSMINA CRACKS RECORD

By John Economos

John Kosmina, Australia's former World Cup captain and ace goalscorer, last Saturday night smashed the Brisbane Strikers Club record, coaching them through to nine consecutive games without defeat.

The 43-year-old Kosmina (pictured), notoriously a very tough competitor during his playing days, represented Australia in 60 full internationals in which he scored 43 precious goals.

During his international playing career, Kosmina largely carried Australia's attack heroically on his own back.

Today as coach of the Brisbane Strikers, Kosmina has lifted the bar to

have his side sitting at the very top of the National League.

The Brisbane Striker's previous record of having gone eight consecutive matches without loss, was set in the 1996-97.

Last Saturday, Kosmina not only crashed his undefeated streak through the eight consecutive game barrier, but did so in grand style, handing out a vicious 5-1 thrashing to the current League and Oceania champions, South Melbourne.

When contacted last night by ABSW to be congratulated on his record breaking feat, the surly but surprised Kosmina, stated: "Souths were probably the better team in the first half.

"But we scored two quick goals late in the first session that turned things right around for us.

"Everyone worked very hard and stuck to their specific job.

"We slaughtered them.

"Anyhow I'm happy it's over and done with."

Like a true professional Kosmina quickly switched to finish up with: "Now it's all for our next game against the Newcastle Breakers this Friday night which is another job that has to be done."

Kosmina kicked off his illustrious career at senior level back in 1977, the year of the inception of the National League with West Adelaide as a strapping 20-year-old marksman.

One year later Kosmina was enticed to join London giants Arsenal on a 15 month playing stint when the flamboyant

Terry Neill was the manager at Highbury.

When Neill himself came to Australia for a brief visit in 1986, at the time he stated to ABSW that: "Kosmina was an exceptionally talented striker and had it all to make it in England at top level. But he hated our very cold weather and was missing your beaches."

At the end of the 1980 NSL season, Kosmina was snapped up by Eddie Thomson's Sydney City which won six consecutive national titles before the team abruptly folded from the NSL in 1987.

During his career Kosmina played 291 games in the National League and scored no less than a record breaking 133 goals.



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Under 17's

Full
reports
pages 6 & 7

**AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH
SOCCER**
WEEKLY
Issue No.959

Published every Tuesday by
Foreign Language Publications Pty
Ltd

5-13 Garners Ave.,
Marrickville NSW 2204

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Marrickville NSW 2204.

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VICTORIA:FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street,
Collingwood. 3066.
Tel: (03) 9486-9522
Fax: (03) 9486-9858**QUEENSLAND:**Queensland Newspapers
Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006
Tel: (07) 3252-6011**SOUTH AUSTRALIA:**Advertiser Newspapers Ltd.
Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000.
Tel: (08) 8218-9329**WESTERN AUSTRALIA:**Pan Hellenic Emporium,
67 James Street, Perth WA 6000.
Tel: (08) 9328-4779
Recommended and maximum price.
\$3.00

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◆ Deadline for contributions, articles
and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to
issue date.

TV AD FOR CARLTON

NSL pace-setters Carlton Soccer Club have taken another step in their innovative programme to market soccer to a wider audience in Melbourne.

Starting from last night (Monday 29th) the Club is advertising their upcoming home games during the English Premier League show on SBS television on Monday nights.

Explaining the move, CSC General Manager Lou Sticca commented:

"Even though it's a big step forward, it's entirely logical. English soccer has a weekly audience in the

region of 75,000 in Melbourne, and every one of them is a potential active Carlton supporter. British soccer fans have traditionally been overlooked by local soccer, however Carlton is a multi-cultural club and we welcome the massive British supporter base to Olympic Park.

The new TV commercial depicts a typical expatriate "Pom" enjoying a pint in his favourite pub on game night. He is responding to a phone call from a friend asking him to come to the Carlton game. In declining, the central character repeats well-known myths held by British soccer fans about the local game (that the atmosphere is inadequate, or that the skill level of the players doesn't measure up) and contrasts those myths with the truth about the Carlton matchday experience. In the end the character is shown looking forward unenthusiastically to a night in watching TV when he could, in fact, be going to the game and having a great time. The commercial stars and was produced by Steve Yolland of Yolland Advertising and Marketing - who just happens to be an expatriate Pom who has fallen in love with local Aussie soccer.



Lou Sticca: New Markets

GOALKEEPER'S HAT-TRICK

Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert scored a hat trick, all of them penalties, for Velez Sarsfield in the Argentine championship last Sunday.

In the latest feat of his amazing career, Chilavert scored in the 45th, 75th and 82nd minutes as he helped Velez to a 6-1 rout of Ferro Carril Oeste, almost certainly becoming the first goalkeeper to score three times in a professional game.

The burly Paraguayan, who has a powerful left-foot shot, is a regular free kick and penalty taker at both club and international level and has scored 46 goals in his career.

He is also one of soccer's most outspoken players, with opposing players, soccer



Jose Chilavert

directors and Paraguayan politicians routinely the subject of his verbal attacks.

Chilavert refused to play for Paraguay when they hosted this year's Copa America, saying the country could not afford to spend money on the tournament.

The XVI Sydney Soccer World Cup 1999

RESULTS-FINALS - Garside Park-Granville

Saturday 27 November

+35	3rd/4th	South Africa (1) 6p	b	Peru(1) 5p
AA	3rd/4th	Spain 3	b	Cyprus 1
+35	Final	Australia 4	b	Argentina 1
-16	Final	Uruguay 2	b	Serb 1
-13	Friendly	Villazon Academy 3	b	Brazil 1
AA	Final	Macedonia (1) 1 (e-time)	b	Turkey (1) 0

THE 1999 CHAMPIONS

All Ages Category	Macedonia	Winning the 1999 Trophy & \$10,000
Over 35 years old Category	Australia	Winning the 1999 Trophy & \$1,000
Under 16 years old Category	Uruguay	Winning the 1999 Trophy & \$800

	Adelaide Force	Auckland Kingz	Brisbane	Canberra	Carlton	Gippsland	Marconi	Melbourne K	Newcastle	Northern Spirit	Parramatta	Perth Glory	Sth Melbourne	Sydney Olympic	Sydney United	Wollongong
Adelaide Force	X 23 13	20 15	0-0	32	19 34	18 26	30	2-1	22	1-1	28	24	11			
Auckland Kingz	27 31	X 33	14	0-3	10	29 12	22	26	16	18	1-0	24	20	33 24		
Brisbane Strikers	2-1	19 X	21	1-1	11 34	17 15	28	22	3-1	24	5-1	30	26	13		
Canberra Cosmos	3-0	32 0-1	X 24 28	19	34	18 1-2	13	22	1-1	26	0-1 11	7	30			
Carlton	23	15 25 10	X 1-1	21	2-1	13	17	1-3	27	30 32	19	11	34			
Gippsland Falcons	14	28 16 29	33 20	X 12	31	1-0 2-0 24	18 24	0-1	22	0-1	1-1	26				
Marconi Stallions	33	11 18	16	0-4	30	X 14	24	1-0 28	15	20 31	2-0	26	22	1-0		
Melbourne Knights	16	30 0-1	17	22	13	32 X 3-0	11	20	0-3 26	24	2-1	1-0 33	28			
Newcastle Breakers	1-1 17	1-1 10	27	31	23	2-3 25 X 21	29	12	16 33	15	14	2-2				
Northern Spirit	12	3-2 14 22	31	18	27	25 10 10 29	0-2	X 33	16	20	0-1	15	24			
Parramatta Power	21	34 23	2-3	26	1-1 17	1-1 2-1	11	19	X 3-1	28	13	1-1 30	32			
Perth Glory	0-0	17 1-2	23	4-2	15	3-3 6-1 13 21	30	34	25 X 11	32	28	19				
South Melbourne	25	21 27	2-2	12 14	3-0	23 3-0	19 34	2-0	29	10 X 17	31	15				
Sydney Olympic	10	1-2 12	20 29	33 25	2-1	27	2-2 23	31	14	18 X 34	21					
Sydney United	1-0	2-1 0-0	25	29 21	1-2 19 23	32 0-2	12 27	10 20	3-0 14	33 2-1	16 X 17	18				
Wollongong Wolves	29	23 25	31 12	16	2-0	27	10 20	3-0	14	33 2-1	0-4 22	17 X				

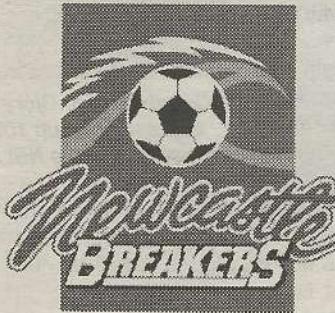
Numbers indicate which round the match will be played in. Home teams listed vertically.

CAN NEWCASTLE BREAK KOSSIE'S UNDEFEATED STRIKERS?

By John Economos

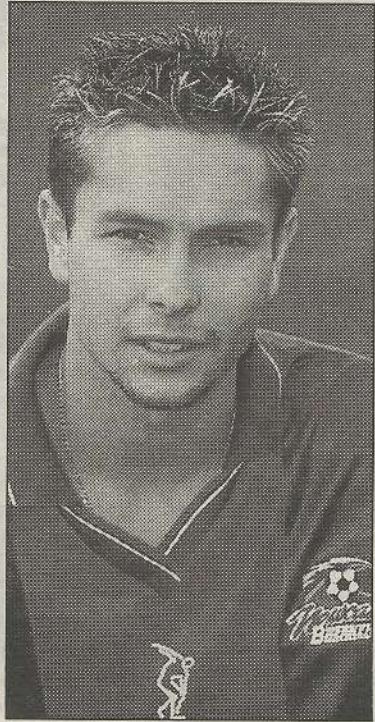
THE NEWCASTLE BREAKERS on Friday night face the daunting task of clashing with John Kosmina's record undefeated League leaders, the Brisbane Strikers at the Breakers' Stadium.

The Breakers' mobile striker John Buonavoglia is almost certain to miss this vital match after sustaining a nasty ankle injury last Friday night against the Canberra Cosmos.



In a heavy tackle, Buonavoglia was upended by Canberra's captain Robbie Hooker.

The Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey is expected to rush into the first team young talented striker Chris



Chris Tanchevski: Talented striker on standby to come into the strike-line.

Tanchevski.

Tanchevski will link up with the intelligent and experienced Andy Harper in attack.

Many of the Newcastle players are expected to be pumped up to do well in this match as their former coach John Kosmina is now coaching the Brisbane Strikers.

Kosmina's Brisbane team after Round 9 last week-end still remain as the only undefeated team in the National League having won six of their matches to date.

Breakers' coach Sterrey, last night stated to ABSW: "Whether you like it or not, the Brisbane Strikers right now are the hottest team in the League.

"You can go unbeaten for three or four matches.

"But to go nine on the trot without defeat, is just no fluke.

"Kosmina has his Brisbane team making their own luck.

"They're real quick all over the pitch.

"To beat the champions South Melbourne 5-1 last Saturday night showed that Brisbane are not slipping from grace."

Sterrey went on to add: "Against Canberra last Friday night, our 1-2 win there was a big injection of confidence.

"We have had two wins to date and both have been in away games, whilst at home, we have had a loss plus three draws," ended Sterrey.

The Breakers last Friday played with-



John Buonavoglia: Breakers' striker seriously in doubt.

out captain and sweeper Shane Pryce who was out serving a suspension.

But Pryce without question will come straight back into the side this Friday.

In Pryce's absence against Canberra, defender Glenn Sprod took over the Breakers' captaincy for the first time and a first win.

Spearheading the Brisbane attack will be the red hot experienced striker, Paul Foster, the League's outright top goalscorer.

Against South Melbourne last Saturday night, Foster nailed in a spectacular hat-trick that capsized the League champions' ship, sending it crashing to a 5-1 defeat.



As well, Foster's hat-trick has now lifted his personal tally to a lofty nine goals this season.

The Breakers' defence, spearheaded by star quality stopper Todd McManus, will have its work cut out to hold the high flying Queenslanders.

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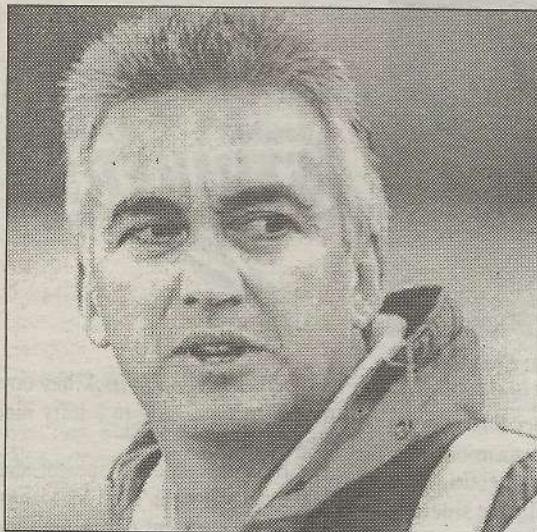
The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

Eddie Thomson, former coach of Australia's World Cup team, will again next February bring his Japanese League side Sanfrecce Hiroshima to Adelaide.

Thomson has done this before as a pre season training tour.

This time however another J-League side, Verdy Kawasaki, will also make the South Australian crusade.

The two J-League teams will have a friendly hit out on 23rd February at the remodelled Hindmarsh Stadium.



Eddie Thomson: Back in Adelaide in February.

Thomson has extended his contract with Hiroshima for another season when it looked most likely he was about to return to Australia at the end of this current year.

◆◆◆

The Adelaide Force last Sunday morning staged an early Christmas party when the Club held its Family Fun Day at its Unley Training Grounds at Park 19 on Greenhill Road.

The Adelaide players were all in attendance along with Santa Claus.

There was entertainment, coaching sessions for Junior players, food and drinks, all free of charge.

◆◆◆

Jason Petkovic, formerly the international goalkeeper from Adelaide City,



Jason Petkovic: Back in Australia, but now signed with the Glory.

late last week signed up with the Perth Glory, as forecast, by 'Good Oil' some weeks ago.

"We are delighted to have secured Jason's services.

"He will be a valuable addition to the Glory's line up as a quality goalkeeper," stated the Glory's General manager, Mr Roger Lefort.

Petkovic had his first training session with the squad last Wednesday night.

Petkovic had gone to England and had trials with various club in

the Scot: "We are playing well but need more goals. Derek will add firepower and will be the finishing touch as we try to make the finals.

◆◆◆

Wollongong Wolves last week had a friendly hit out against NSW Super League side Canterbury Marrickville at Brandon Park.

The Wolves won 4-1 and

coach Nick Theodorakopoulos utilised the game to give some players a run as they had lacked match practice such as left wingback Alvin Ceccoli.

Canterbury surprisingly held the Wolves out in the first session, but the NSL outfit's superior fitness allowed them to pile in four goals in the second half.

Striker Saso Petrovski nailed in a hat-trick whilst the always industrious Anthony Surjan added another.



Nick Theodorakopoulos: Wollongong's coach.

◆◆◆

Derek Ferguson, the former Glasgow Rangers star midfielder, was last week signed up by the Adelaide Force for the remainder of this season.



Zoran Matic: Made new signing last week.

The 32-year-old former Scotland international is a vital addition to Zoran Matic's squad as the Force strives to climb into the Top Six.

At the age of 16, Ferguson became the youngest player to play for Rangers when he made his debut in a League Cup match.

Following 130 games for the Gers, Ferguson later moved on to play with Hearts then Sunderland, and recently finished a season with Partick Thistle.

Matic stated when signing

Ian Rush, Sydney Olympic's current guest player and former Liverpool legend, was last Friday an interesting observer at the Parramatta Stadium to watch the Power clash with Sydney United.

Sitting in a V.I.P. box with his manager Steve Hewitt and former Sydney Olympic president, Simon Konstandinidis, Rush

Instead Mitchell most rightly rewarded both



Ian Rush: Last guest appearance for Olympic this Saturday night.

Griffiths and Angelucci by retaining them in the starting line up.

However the most valuable Sterjovski did come on off the bench in the 74th minute to replace the injured central marker Joe Vrakic.



Mile Sterjovski: The Power's lithe striker.

Unfortunately the galloping Griffiths was also forced to retire just three minutes later, coming off with a dislocated shoulder when scythed down by a crude tackle by United's marker Vince Savocca.

Griffiths now will most certainly miss the Power's away clash this Sunday against the current League

champions South Melbourne.

This will force Mitchell to use his third combination of strikers this season as Sterjovski on Sunday will link up with Angelucci in the Power's firing line.

◆◆◆

The Parramatta Power last week signed up another valuable sponsor, a one year deal with the world famous manufacturer of air conditioners, 'Electra'. Based in Israel, the 'Electra' name was first seen last Friday night at the Parramatta Stadium emblazoned across the back of the Power playing shirts for the match against Sydney United.

ELECTRA
ECP (Australia) Pty. Ltd. A.C.N. 082 755 655

At the end of the match the Power's lanky goalkeeper Andrew Crews who was Man of the Match, received a domestic airconditioning unit valued at just under \$1,000 as did a lucky Parramatta Power supporter, Mr Adam Burdon.

At the end of this season, 'Electra' will present a fully installed Split level air conditioning unit, valued at \$5,000, to the Power's 'Player of the Year'.

◆◆◆

Sydney Olympic last Thursday night staged an 'Ian Rush Dinner' at

the 'Daintree Restaurant' at Sydney's picturesque Darling Harbour to honour the former Liverpool living legend striker.

A signed by Rush Newcastle United shirt was auctioned off at \$400.00.

But when the autographed Liverpool Rush shirt went under the hammer, in seconds, but of course, the hostile bidding had rocketted to hit \$3,100.00.

The successful bidder was a very proud Liverpool-Sydney Olympic supporter, and father, who bought the most treasured Rush's Liverpool shirt for his 18-month-old son.

On the same night and during question time, Rush was bombarded by a multitude of intriguing questions.

During this most enjoyable section of the evening, it came out that it was NOT Liverpool, but in fact Everton, that had first gone to see 'Rushy' play at Chester City with the intention of signing him for the 'Toffees'.

At the end of that match, (young Rush believe it or not played in the midfield), Everton scouts evaluated that Rush wasn't a player.

Mistake. BIG Mistake!!

Soon after, one Mr Bob ('God') Paisley also went to Chester, immediately liked what he saw, and promptly conquered Rush by dropping on Chester's doorstep a record \$750,000 and took the 18-year-old Welsh lad straight back to Anfield for the mighty Reds.

chance to see this great marksman.

◆◆◆

Perth Glory's lethal left footer Con Boutsianis, last Sunday at Perth Oval against Carlton, racked up his 200th match in the



Gareth Naven: Glory's captain racks up 100 matches in the NSL.

National League, whilst the Glory's skipper Gareth Naven scored his 'ton' of games in the NSL.

◆◆◆

Sydney United last Friday night in their 1-1 draw with the Parramatta Power at the Parramatta Stadium, played their 450th match since joining the National League.

Meanwhile the GIPPSLAND FALCONS last Saturday whilst at home against the Northern Spirit, played their 200th game in the NSL.

◆◆◆

David Miller, was the youngest ever



Ian Rush: The Great Man for the Great Liverpool.

Since that very day, Rush has 'Never Walked Alone' as over the years he relentlessly marched into the record books season after season, scoring with his incredible shooting skills that yielded this slender striker a river of goals all over England.

At the end of this season, 'Electra' will present a fully installed Split level air conditioning unit, valued at \$5,000, to the Power's 'Player of the Year'.

Goalkeeper to have made his debut in the NSL.

Miller was just 15 years and 325 days old when he first donned the gloves in the NSL for West Adelaide back in February 1981.

◆◆◆

Graham Arnold, the Northern Spirit's coach, stated last week:

The Good Oil ...

"We easily have the very best supporters in the entire League."

"They have stuck with us through thick and thin and have travelled to Wollongong, Gippsland and Marconi to watch us play."

"It was time we did something to show just how much we appreciate their sterling, and very much needed support."

Last week the Spirit players chipped in and bought sausages, bread rolls and drinks and invited more than 120 of the 'Bob Standers' supporters to an open training afternoon session for some interaction between the die-hard fans and Spirit players.



Graham Arnold: A most appreciative coach to his supporters.

What you'd call a real solid exercise of excellent P.R. at grass root level.

◆◆◆◆
Steve Watson, the Northern Spirit's goalkeeper coach, kept an eagle eye on his Australia's Under 17s custodian Jess Van Stratten whilst in New



Jess van Stratten: The Spirit's Under 17s champion goalkeeper.

Zealand during the Under 17s World Championships.

Jess is the Spirit's apprentice goalkeeper and Watson plus Head coach Graham Arnold have had huge wraps on the young 'wicketkeeper' since he joined the Spirit this year.

◆◆◆◆
The Newcastle Breakers late last week signed 26-year-old lanky midfielder cum-striker Damien Smith for the balance of this season.

A former NSW Super League 'Player Of The

Year', Smith according to the Breakers' coach Lee Sterrey, "Will add depth and attacking strength to the squad".

Having been born and raised in Newcastle, the former Adamstown Rosebuds, Sydney Olympic, Leichhardt Tigers and last season with the Blacktown Demons, Smith who already resides in Newcastle, will at long last eliminate the arduous hours and pressure of travelling up and down the Newcastle Freeway to Sydney.

◆◆◆◆

John Kosmina's Brisbane Strikers following their away draw against Sydney United, equalled the Club's record of having gone eight consecutive matches without defeat.

The record was established back in the 1996-97 season, the year the Strikers actually won their very first League championship.

Last Saturday night at the Suncorp Stadium, against the current League champions South Melbourne, Kosmina finally smashed the Club record, having now gone nine consecutive matches without defeat after annihilating the League champions South Melbourne by 5-1.

'Good Oil', knowing Kosmina the former great Australian World Cup captain and record goalscorer striker, will have no intention of surrendering he's newly established record in the near future when he takes his Queenslanders South to Newcastle this Friday night to clash with the Newcastle Breakers at the Breakers' Stadium.

◆◆◆◆

Andreas Bocelli, the sensational blind Italian singer of opera, over the past couple of years has surely rocketed to now become the planet's hottest recording artist.

But what most people are unaware of, Bocelli was NOT born blind, as was not America's famous

Zealand during the Under 17s World Championships.

Jess is the Spirit's apprentice goalkeeper and Watson plus Head coach Graham Arnold have had huge wraps on the young 'wicketkeeper' since he joined the Spirit this year.

◆◆◆◆
The Newcastle Breakers late last week signed 26-year-old lanky midfielder cum-striker Damien Smith for the balance of this season.

A former NSW Super League 'Player Of The



By John Economos

black singer, Ray Charles.

As a child, Bocelli did suffer with some optic problems.

But at the age of 12, this magnificent Italian tenor was heavily struck in the head by a Soccer ball which most tragically was the cause for him to completely lose his vision.

◆◆◆◆

Attilio Labbozzetta, the strapping 24-year-old son of Soccer Australia's Commissioner Tony Labbozzetta, made headlines last week and rocked

Sydney when he was spotted zipping around the city with the stunning and World famous English black model, 28-year-old Naomi Campbell.

Attilio, co-owner of the swank and most scenic 'Vieri' Italian restaurant, wedged on the shores of Darling Harbour, was quite nonchalant about the whole affair.

What's the big deal about being seen about town with the super famous, \$10,000 a day, fashion model?



Naomi Campbell: Attilio Labbozzetta's 'unknown girl'.

The very affable 'Tily', a former Soccer player, is himself a rather bit of a personality and a man well known about town.

So he couldn't help but smile and looked a bit embarrassed when a media person last week spotted 'Tily' with the delectable Naomi in the city and yelled out to him:

"Hey 'Tily', who's the doll that's with you?"

In fact Naomi is a friend of the World's most expensive striker, (\$74 million), Italian World Cup goalscorer, Christian Vieri, goal ace with Inter Milan.

In turn, Vieri just happens to be 'Tily's' very best mate from childhood days.

Ms Campbell when in Milan was given Attilio's phone number in Sydney by Vieri.

So when Naomi got to Singapore on route to Sydney, the black stunner of fashion phoned 'Tily' that she was about to lob into Australia and wanted to meet him.

As they say, 'and the rest is history'.

Some have it, and some don't.

◆◆◆◆

Francis Awaritefe, Marconi's gangly striker, made his comeback for the first time this season to the first team last Sunday at Marconi Stadium against the Wollongong Wolves in a spectacular fashion.

The quality industrious veteran striker came off the bench at half-time, and did more in the remaining 45 minutes than many of his team-mates did in the whole match.

Awaritefe was sidelined with a pre-season injury to his left knee that precluded him from starting the season till after half-time last Sunday.

Following a sterling performance, Awaritefe after the match stated to 'Good Oil': "I felt a bit rusty but I also believe that I was able to hold up the ball well on my own upfront when we went down a man (midfielder Christian Care was sent off 32 minutes from full-time).

"My knee is going to take a while to completely heal and I can't wait for the day for that to happen," ended the lanky marksman who exploded out a big roar from the crowd when the fans saw Francis warming up his engines on the sidelines in readiness to come on.

◆◆◆◆

Australia's Under 17s performance last Saturday in New Zealand was nothing short of magnificent in the Under 17s World Cup Final against Brazil.

Unquestionably so.

Immediately after Australia finally went down 7-8 to Brazil in the most dreaded 'Sudden Death' stage of the penalty shoot-out, a proud national coach Les Scheinflug, defiantly struggled to joke:

"I'm going into the Brazilian dressing rooms now to see if they want to play an extra 10 minutes."



Les Scheinflug: Cracks a heart-breaking final joke.

Newcastle Breakers vs Brisbane Strikers



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NIGHT
KICK-OFF 7.30PM
AT THE
BREAKERS'
STADIUM



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League
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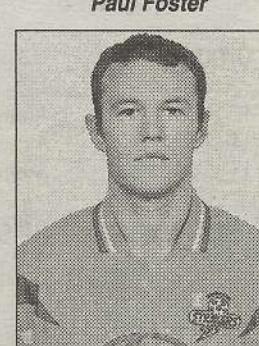
Travis Dodd



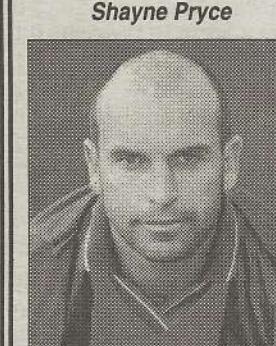
Paul Foster



Shayne Pryce



Stuart McLaren



Andy Harper



Peter Dwyer

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WORLD UNDER 17

AUSTRALIA — JUST AS FUTURE LOOKS GOOD

By Daniel Giorelando

The future of Australian soccer looks bright following the successful campaign of the Australian Joeys despite losing to Brazil in the final of the World Under 17 championships held in New Zealand.

The Joeys were only a matter of moments away from becoming the world's best but instead suffered the ultimate misfortune, a penalty shoot-out defeat.

The loss was even tougher to take for our young stars as they had matched the

might of Brazil for the majority of the match and held their own in the tense atmosphere of a major champion final.

And following the dream run by the Joeys in New Zealand and the way in which they were not intimidated by either the United States in the Semi-final or Brazil in the final, it is clear that the future of Australian soccer is in good hands.

And upon the teams arrival back home in Sydney last Sunday, these feelings were echoed by Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella.

"We have twenty 16 to 17-year-olds taking on the best in the world. We started off with 150 teams in qualifying

and we made it to the final.

"Here we have the foundation of the next 10 years for Australian national soccer."

But whilst the future is bright, coach Les Schienflug looked back on the tournament as the one that got away but quashed any plans that he is going to step out of soccer following his retirement as coach.

"I wanted nothing else but gold and they (the players) realised what I wanted desperately, but my job is not done with Soccer Australia yet. I want gold."

"We improved from a million to one outsiders and almost gave glory to both Australia and Oceania."

And following the unexpected success in New Zealand, Schienflug felt that Australian soccer had turned the corner and now had no reason to fear anybody, not even the world's strongest and most successful sides.

"Australia is not scared of Brazil, we are as good as them and we can beat them. We played against teams who had more experience and skill but our camaraderie overpowered all-comers."

Australia had reached the final on the back of a Semi-final win on penalties against the United States, so when the situation arose for a second consecutive game against Brazil in the final, Australian goalkeeper Jess van Stratten

was once again asked to step up.

If one person was meant to feel pressure, in theory it should've been van Stratten but that was further from the truth for someone who was competing in only his second ever penalty shoot-out.

"There was no pressure on myself, when you go into that situation all the pressure is on the players."

But despite the coolness of keeper van Stratten, as so many penalty shoot-outs are decided, you need luck and unfortunately for the Joeys, that is the one ingredient that they lacked in the final.

THE PATH TO THE WORLD CUP FINAL

World Under-17 Soccer Youth Cup — New Zealand

Semi Final — November 24 1999

Australia Vs USA 2-2 (7-6 on penalties)

Quarter Final — November 21 1999

Australia Vs Qatar 1-0

Group C

12-11-99	Australia Vs Brazil	1-2
14-11-99	Australia Vs Germany	2-1
17-11-99	Australia Vs Mali	1-0

PRE WYC TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA — OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1999

05-11-99	Australia Vs Argentina (U-20s)	3-3
03-11-99	Australia Vs Independents (1st Division)	1-0
01-11-99	Australia Vs Argentine Southern Select XI	5-0
28-10-99	Australia Vs Universidad Catolica (Chilean 1st Division)	0-1
26-10-99	Australia Vs Universidad de Chile (Chilean 1st Division)	1-1
24-10-99	Australia Vs Colo Colo (Chilean 1st Division)	4-2
21-10-99	Australia Vs Nacional (Uruguayan 1st Division)	7-0
18-10-99	Australia Vs Uruguay (U-17s)	1-2
15-10-99	Australia Vs Uruguay (U-17s)	1-1

FINAL QUALIFIER — Winner of OFC Vs 3rd placed in AFC

15-08-99	Australia Vs Bahrain (in Canberra)	2-1
28-08-99	Australia Vs Bahrain (in Bahrain)	1-0

OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION (OFC) QUALIFIERS

14-05-99	FINAL — Australia Vs Fiji	5-0
12-05-99	SEMI FINAL — Australia Vs New Caledonia	8-0
10-05-99	Group Match — Australia Vs Vanuatu	9-0
07-05-99	Group Match — Australia Vs American Samoa	15-0
05-05-99	Group Match — Australia Vs Cook Islands	8-0
03-05-99	Group Match — Australia Vs Papua New Guinea	8-0
01-05-99	Group Match — Australia Vs Fiji	2-1

AUSTRALIA CLINCH FINAL BERTH

The LG Joeys brought the USA's run of 24 games without defeat to an end by beating the Americans 7-6 on penalties, in today's first semi final in Christchurch.

Aaron Goulding got Australia off to a dream start, converting a corner in the 3rd minute for a one-nil lead, which was enhanced by Scott McDonald to 2-0 in the 35th minute.

The USA replied a minute later, via Landon Donovan, and then equalised in the 51st minute with a goal to Oguchi Onyewu to set up a 2-all draw, which saw the teams through to full time, and into golden goal extra time.

Both teams had opportunities to win the game in sudden death, the LG Joeys holding the advantage after American Kyle Beckerman was sent off in the 25th minute of extra time, but unable to take advantage of the extra man, with the game forced into a penalty shoot out, which Australia won 7-6, as follows:

"I'm ecstatic for the kids who did a marvelous job today," said coach Les Scheinflug after the nail biting finish.

"They kept their cool right through the penalties, which is something we've been practicing at training, because there was always

the chance it would come to this.

"After we got the early two goals, I felt we became a little complacent and the USA came back and put us against the wall, but we still had the confidence that we could win it, either in the golden goal or by shoot-out.

"It's nice to create history and that's the feeling in the dressing room at the moment.

"This is the first Australian soccer team to make the final of a World Cup, and it's great for everyone — for the boys, for me, for soccer in Australia, and

for soccer in Oceania.

"We've reached something we've been striving toward for years, and it's certainly a nice way for me to leave one room and go to another.

"Now it's time to make sure we don't lose sight of the mission, the boys will celebrate tonight, and also watch the second semi final between Brazil and Ghana, but I'll make sure they're back concentrating on the Final tomorrow."

SEMI FINAL
AUSTRALIA 7
USA 6

On penalties
Full time score 2-2
Australia (A Goulding 3', S McDonald 25')
USA (L Donovan 36', O Onyewu 52')

AUSTRALIAN UNDER-17 LINE-UP

Jess Vanstratten (gk);
Shane Cansdell-Sherriff,
Aaron Goulding, Adrian
Madaschi, Mark Byrnes
(capt), Jade North; Lucas
Pantelis (Joe Di Iorio 46'),
Louis Brain, Wayne Sroj;
Scott McDonald (Joshua
Kennedy 69'), Dylan
MacAllister



Adrian Madaschi: The Italy based star was rock solid in the Australian defence.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

GOOD AS BRAZIL

CRUEL END

The cruel irony of a penalty shoot-out has seen AUSTRALIA go down 8-7 on penalties to BRAZIL, in the Final of the FIFA Under-17 Soccer World Cup, played in Auckland on the weekend.

The LG Joeys put the USA on the receiving end of a loss via a penalty shoot-out last Wednesday's semi final, but were on that receiving end themselves, after scores were locked 0-0 at fulltime, and at the end of extra time.

LG Joey keeper JESS VAN STRATTEN was able to get his hands to many of the Brazilian attempts, but able to stop just one, while his opposite #1 RUBINHO saved the 15th penalty attempt by defender IAIN FYFE, and saw his team-mate WELLINGTON convert, to take Brazil to its second successive Under-17 World Title.

Penalty Shoot-out

Australia — MARK BYRNES (missed) 0-0



Shane Cansdell-Sherriff: Drives in to make a tackle.



Brazil: The victorious celebrate.

Brazil — LEONARDO (converted) 0-1
 Australia — JOE DI IORIO (converted) 1-1
 Brazil — MARQUINHOS (saved) 1-1
 Australia — WAYNE SRHOJ (converted) 2-1
 Brazil — EDUARDO (converted) 2-2
 Australia — ADRIAN MADASCHI (converted) 3-2
 Brazil — WALKER (converted) 3-3
 Australia — JADE NORTH (converted) 4-3
 Brazil — RICARDO (converted) 4-4
 Australia — DYLAN MACALLISTER (converted) 5-4
 Brazil — LEO (converted) 5-5
 Australia — AARON GOULDING (converted) 6-5
 Brazil — BRUNO (converted) 6-6
 Australia — JOSHUA KENNEDY (converted) 7-6
 Brazil — SOUZA (converted) 7-7
 Australia — IAIN FYFE (saved) 7-7
 Brazil — WELLINGTON (converted) 7-8

FULL SQUAD

Jess VAN STRATTEN
 19-07-1982
 Goalkeeper
 Northern Spirit (Australia)
 Matthew MILOSEVIC
 29-10-1982
 Goalkeeper
 SASI (Australia)
 Mark BYRNES
 08-02-1982
 Defender
 Parramatta Power (Australia)
 Shane CANDSELL-SHERIFF
 10-11-1982
 Defender
 Leeds United (UK)
 Iain FYFE
 03-04-1982
 Defender
 SASI (Australia)
 Aaron GOULDING
 29-04-1982
 Defender
 SASI (Australia)
 Shane LOCKHART
 26-09-1982
 Defender
 NSWIS (Australia)
 Adrian MADASCHI
 11-07-1982
 Defender
 Atalanta Bergamo (Italy)
 Anthony DOUMANIS
 01-02-1982
 Midfielder
 NSWIS (Australia)
 Bradley GROVES
 29-01-1982
 Midfielder
 Leeds United (UK)
 James JOHNSON
 21-05-1982
 Midfielder
 QAS (Australia)
 Jade NORTH
 07-01-1982
 Midfielder
 AIS/Brisbane Strikers (Australia)
 Lucas PANTELIS
 12-03-1982
 Midfielder
 AIS (Australia)
 Wayne SRHOJ
 23-03-1982
 Midfielder
 AIS/Brisbane Strikers (Australia)
 Louis BRAIN
 09-05-1982
 Striker
 Adelaide Force (Australia)
 Joseph DI IORIO
 08-04-1982
 Striker
 Werder Bremen (Germany)
 Joshua KENNEDY
 20-08-1982
 Striker
 AIS/Carlton (Australia)
 Dylan MACALLISTER
 17-05-1982
 Striker
 Sydney Olympic (Australia)
 Scott McDONALD
 21-08-1983
 Striker
 VIS (Australia)

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 Tuesday December 7

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Enquiries Under 21 Bob Smith

0418 984 755

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Enquiries

Warwick Andrews 9899 4004

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Ben Docker (9552 6429) or Simon Philips (9210 4077)

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FALCONS TAKE FLIGHT

The roller-coaster ride of the Gippsland Falcons took flight last Saturday night, when the struggling Victorian regional side upset fancied Northern Spirit 2-0 at Mobil Park, at home in Morwell.

It was only Gippsland's second win this season but a timely one, since it was also the club's 200th national league match. Coach Jeff Hopkins had made clear it was time to face up to the big task ahead.

"We can't keep saying we played well, but we



deserved better. It's time we got some points," he said.

Defender Robbie Puca opened the scoring, but new signing Igor Mandic proved his worth with the second goal.

The Falcons are working hard during the week to lift

their game. There are at least four intensive training sessions between rounds.

"I told the players, the only way we're going to turn things around is through hard work," Hopkins said.

The inclusion of former South Melbourne and Socceroos defender Mehmed Durakovic has been a tremendous bonus for the Falcons defence — and now with Peter Kakos, Juan Nilo and Mandic, as well as busy forward Brian Macnicol the Falcons can make a serious challenge on the top six.

KNIGHTS SPONSOR 2000 KEILOR GIFT

In a unique joint sporting venture, the 2000 Keilor Gift will be sponsored by the Melbourne Knights Soccer Club.

The 51st running of the prestigious event will be held on February 19, 2000, and Gift chairman Hayden Kelly said that the Keilor Sport Club was delighted that the Melbourne Knights had seen fit to work with the Sports Club to ensure the Gift remained the premier professional athletics event in the metropolitan area.

With \$10,000 in prize money on offer, the Melbourne Knights Keilor Gift is sure to again attract the cream of Australia's professional athletes. The event is now regarded as the major event in the lead up to the Stawell Gift.

"The Knights are delighted to be involved in this prestigious event run by the Keilor



Sports Club," said Knights president Tony Karlusic.

"As the flag bearers for soccer in Melbourne's north-west, the Knights are proud to be associated with the event that is an institution in the north-western suburbs and an icon of Melbourne's sporting calendar," Mr Karlusic said.

"The 2000 Melbourne Knights Keilor Gift will be the first of the new century, and we are thrilled to be able to take the event into the new millennium in partnership with the Keilor Sports Club.

"We are confident the partnership will raise the event's profile and further entrench it as a landmark community and sporting event for the region and Melbourne," he said.

SOUTH MELBOURNE MILESTONE

South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou reached a major milestone by becoming the club's longest serving national league coach last Saturday, but nobody was celebrating.

The defending champion lost 5-1 to league leader Brisbane Strikers at Suncorp stadium.

It was Postecoglou's 102nd consecutive match coaching South, a club he has served since he was nine years old as a junior player and later as a senior player. He has been involved in all of South's four championships.

He made his senior debut in 1984, the year South won its second championship.

He was captain of the 1991 championship side and coach of the team that



Angie Postecoglou: New record

won back-to-back titles in the last two seasons.

"The South Melbourne club is proud that Angie Postecoglou, a favorite son of the club and the only member of all four championship teams as either a player or a coach, can boast the record of coaching the most games at this successful club," South president George Vasilopoulos said.

Postecoglou is tipped to take over from Les Scheinflug as coach of the national U17s side.

The Joeys became Australia's most successful international representative team, going down on penalties to Brazil in the U17 World Cup Final in New Zealand last weekend.

NEW PLACE, NEW NAME



Carlton is hunting for a new venue, despite the fact that club general manager Lou Sticca believes Olympic Park offers the best corporate facilities for his large coterie of influential backers and it should stay as the club's home venue.

Carlton puts up a tremendous show in a first class venue, but can't get a top crowd.

Sticca has been disappointed with the paltry 2500-odd spectators turning up on Friday nights and, frankly, the club has run out of ideas on what to do about it.

From beer garden to fireworks, spruikers, singers and banner competitions — it's all the rage at the roundball Blues, yet not too many bums occupy the vast array of seats.

On the positive side, the club does attract a whole new breed of young, upwardly mobile people to its matches — the germ of a new following and maybe, as long as the message keeps

getting through, the club will be able to create its own special brand of supporters.

Sticca is convinced of that. "It's a matter of longevity. As long as we keep sending out the message, we'll get there eventually," he suggested recently.

Co-director Peter Jess appears to have a different opinion on the matter, although he also has not got all of the answers.

"Olympic Park is a premier corporate venue, but we're not getting the support and I don't know why," Jess commented.

Despite the fact Carlton signed a 10-year lease with the Olympic Park board of trustees, Jess believes sharing Bob Jane stadium with home team South Melbourne may be the solution.

South president George Vasilopoulos agreed, after the two club officials met, saying the ground was capable of accommodating both clubs.

Jess also hinted at changing the Carlton name to create a new identity.

"We'll need to relaunch ourselves as a club. The name is going to be on the line as well," he said.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE SPINK NEW COACH AT PRESTON?

At Victorian Premier League club Preston Lions the search for a new coach is intensifying. The departure of Vlado Vanis to the Melbourne Knights is a big loss to Preston.

Vanis came across last season from St Albans, where he won the VPL minor premiership, lost the grand final to Bulleen and won Coach of the Year. He coached Preston to third place last season.

Only last week Preston launched its vision for the future, called "The Road Ahead", relying heavily on Vanis to head a new breed senior team bent on winning the VPL title next season and

climbing into the second division of the national league after the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"It's a big blow for us. It's a big hole to fill. The club had a great working relationship with Vlado and we hope to be on the same level with the next coach. We had a mutual agreement we would not stop him, if he went to a higher league," Preston president George Nesterovski said.

Whoever is going to coach Preston this coming season will need to fill big shoes.

There are a few options, according to Nesterovski, but the money is on legendary striker Warren Spink to take charge as player coach.

Former Melbourne Knights and St Albans coach Vid Horvat is also among the candidates. The advantage with Horvat is his keen interest in establishing a soccer academy.

Part of Preston's new charter is setting up a youth program under the banner of The Northern Lions Academy.

A blast from the past, Lube Jancev is another possibility. Jancev coached Preston in the national league in 1989. He is presently in Sydney and may be enticed to move south.

Veteran striker and former Socceroo, Warren Spink did well as a player last season, having returned after a long stint in Asia.

A fourth option is appointing an overseas coach, club president George Nesterovski said. "But we're not in a hurry to appoint a coach. We can't look back, but whoever follows in Vlado's footsteps must be able to work with the players and be as enthusiastic.

"But good luck to Vlado. He was always prepared to work hard and he wanted to have success," he said.

All stories on this page compiled by Bert van Bedaf

J LEAGUE CLASH AT HINDMARSH STADIUM

By Allan Crisp

Japanese professional soccer will burst into Adelaide on February 23 when J League giants Verdy Kawasaki and Sanfrecce Hiroshima clash at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Verdy Kawasaki will be making its South Australian debut, while perennial visitor Hiroshima will be using the excursion as part of its normal pre-season training routine.

That game will be one of many fixtures planned for the newly revamped Hindmarsh facility in the new year, highlighting a mouth watering program which also could include visits from the Japanese and Korean Olympic squads.

Plans are afoot to bring the Olyroos to Adelaide for pre-Olympic Games training and matches.

And it will be a case of lights, cameras, action when Verdy hits town, because the high profile club is sponsored by one of Japan's biggest selling newspapers and Nippon Television.

Previous visits by the Japanese World Cup national squad and Red Diamonds have attracted five television crews to Adelaide to cover the exploits of both teams and that figure could spirit next year.

The South Australian State squad has reassembled for the occasion as it has been pencilled in to be a sparing partner for any or all of the visitors.

Premier League champions, Cumberland Foxes also have agreed



Brad Armour: In action for Adelaide City back in 1997.

to play a match against Verdy Kawasaki.

Other prospective tourists are the Blue Wings club from Korea and second division Japanese club, Consolde Sapporo.

But, as reported in last week's ABSW, the Women's Soccer double-header program on January 13 will be a blockbuster attraction with Australia playing World Cup champion USA and Czechoslovakia taking on Sweden in the curtainraiser.

Meanwhile, the South Australian squad features many of the players who were candidates to sign for Adelaide United team which failed to gain an NSL berth as replacement for the defunct Adelaide Sharks.

Former West Adelaide pair, Zoran Maricic and Brenton Hiern will coach the side.

And SA could face crack Croatian side Hajduk Split in late January or early February.

The 26-man squad, due to be

reduced to 22 is — Brad Armour, Corey Artone, Michael Brooks, Rick Cerracchio, Archie Christakos, Ryan Donovan, Daniel Ferreira, John Fontanarosa, Bill Karapetis, Con Kokkinoplis, Les Matisca, Daniel Menechella, Michael Menechella, Bill Misailidis, Ben Moore, Rick Piotrowski, Michael Pirone, Joel Porter, Lino Sattin, Tony Scalzi, Paul Simmons, Damian Stam, Jason Trimboli, Aaron Westervelt, Nathan Wildy, Mark Yates.

Tricarico out for 12 weeks

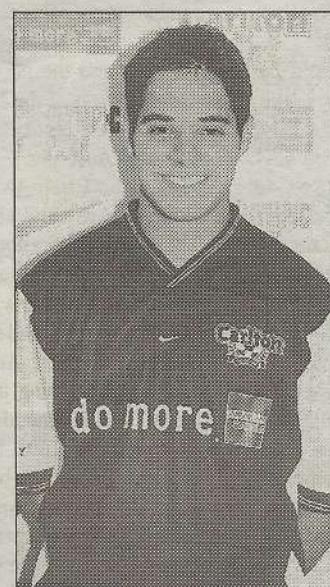
Bad news for NSL pace-setters Carlton Soccer Club, who have now established that exciting right-sided attacking wing-back Joe Tricarico is out with hamstring damage for at least another 12 weeks.

Tricarico was hurt in the team's recent draw away with Adelaide. The news is a double blow for the team, who are already coping without exciting import, midfielder Stuart Slater.

Coach Stuart Munro commented:

"It's desperately bad luck for the lad, who has made a terrific contribution in our early games, and is obviously a very exciting young talent."

"Frankly it's a nuisance to have



Joe Tricarico: Injury setback.

him out on the right, and Stuart not available on the left, and it means some of our lads are having to play in less-preferred positions to cover, but that's soccer I guess."

"We're still unbeaten, which shows that our squad is developing the depth needed for a concerted push for the NSL title, but I wouldn't like to lose anymore key players."

Munro is nevertheless determined to stick to his game plan.

"We've lost two players who are both noted for their dribbling and running at players, which has inevitably blunted our attacking play somewhat."

"This is a tough game, you just have to cope with injury setbacks and forge ahead. But we're going to stick to our guns and keep



developing an attractive passing-style of game."

There was also better news for Carlton on the progress of star import Stuart Slater. Doctors are pleased with the progress of his knee injury, and barring unforeseen setbacks he could return for the Blues within two or three weeks, said Munro.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FANS ENDURE MEDIA FARCE

Dear Sir,

What is it with the mainstream media and the greatest game in the world in this country? My theory is they're still straight up racist when it comes to the round ball code. You could right a book about the thousands of examples when soccer fans have been treated as second class citizens.

You could also possibly draw an interesting analogy with the republic debate but I won't do that in this forum because I haven't got the time and soccer weekly won't have the space (perhaps at a later date) but hopefully a lot of readers will get my drift.

No! I'll just concentrate on the treatment we loyal hard core soccer fans were once again dished up by the media in regard to the Australia v Brazil series.



Starting with Channel 7 who only afforded 1 1/2 hours to Sunday's delayed Sydney telecast outing at least 20-25 mins of soccer allowing for ads and commentary lead ins...etc.

The second game in Melbourne was advertised to be screened at 9.30pm on Wednesday evening in the weeks leading up to the game but yep you guessed it, the network made a late change on match eve to put it into the graveyard 11.30pm — 1.30am slot. Worse still the first anyone learned of it was in the TV programs in Wednesday morning papers.

When I, a disappointed fan called the Channel 7 switchboard on Wednesday morning I said to the lady at reception. "They've let the soccer fans down again haven't they?" Her response amazingly

was "Yep they've done it again."

I then asked for someone in programming to launch a complaint and see if they had a reasonable explanation.

I proceeded to say Channel 7 did a similar thing with the Manchester United games earlier this year and even gave precedence to fencing, rowing and horse jumping when Australia played that crucial quarter final game against Spain at the Atlanta Olympics.

Her lame reply was "Yes, yes I understand your concern I will register a complaint for you."

She then took my name but wouldn't tell me hers.

Anyway my point is soccer is still constantly disregarded by the mainstream media. They love discrediting the game.

For example, the Ned Zelic walkout got a page in the Daily Telegraph but the brilliant performance by the Aussies for 75 minutes in the 2-2 draw with Brazil got a quarter page and what was all that sensationalist garbage by Jeff Wells about the game in disarray?

Keep the faith fellow fans, Australian soccer has never been stronger — look at the U17 Joeys in NZ, our Olyroos are a good medal chance next year and the

Socceroos I think are the strongest they have ever been.

The yobbo footy heads are worried we will take over, they can't keep us down much longer — like the monarchists they are fighting a losing battle. We will prevail! Keep positive, keep the faith.

Support the game through good and bad times and support those who look after us the fans ie — the players and coaches No.1 and the Les' and Johnnies, Kyle's, Tony Palumbo's, Paul Williams', Michael Cockerill's, and John Economos' of this world.

Ben Horvath,
Cronulla, NSW.

SUCKERS FOR PUNISHMENT

Dear Sir,

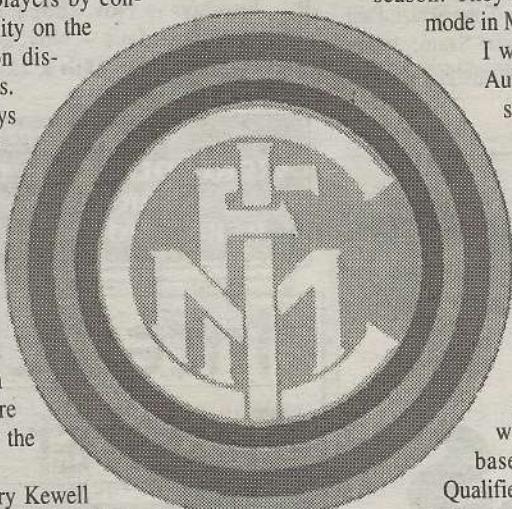
After what just happened recently with these two Brazil games, I can't help thinking that Soccer promoter's are thinking about bringing out Inter Milan next May.

Apart from not knowing who will really show up on the day, these friendlies or exhibition matches have had their day, unless we want to continue to humiliate our own players by concentrating all the publicity on the so-called superstar's on display from other countries.

It is not fair to our boys to use them as show ponies with little respect so the fans can come out to watch and talk about Ronaldo, Christian Vieri and Roberto Baggio. That's exactly what happens when these type of games are put on and promoted to the public.

Who can blame Harry Kewell for not wanting to be a part of I.M.G's Circus act, when the majority of fans would cheer for the opposition side involved in these sorts of games.

Harry knows that apart from being a valuable asset to the Australian side, he also knows that the only time Australia's side has 100% support or close to it, is when we are playing for a World Cup position in the finals. That's when the true patriotism and nationalism of the mainstream public



comes to the fore. It unites the country with a passion behind our boys in that one game every four years.

Sadly the same can't be said of these exhibition matches that are put on at a premium price, for the benefit of a few die hard soccer fanatics who more often than not are mostly disappointed every time these high priced players come out here in their off season. They are usually in holiday mode in May, June and July.

I would advise that Soccer Australia put a stop to these so-called sham preparation matches for our Socceroos here in the country. If we want to prepare the Socceroos properly for the next World Cup it should be mostly against European countries next year in Europe where they (players) are all based until the World Cup Qualifiers come around in 2001.

In the meantime, we should also continue to badger FIFA into persuading the Asians to allow us and all of Oceania countries to compete in an expanded Asian Cup every four years in between the World Cup years.

It should be along the lines of the European Cup championship. We should also concentrate on our Olyroos team at home next year.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.

ELITE LEAGUE THE ANSWER?

Dear Sir,

I regard the smaller league, proposed by the ever enigmatic Soccer Australia very worrying. What is the point of this? One can only guess what is on the minds of Soccer Australia but only presumes it wants an elite league with higher grade soccer.

For what purpose? To my knowledge there has never been converts (en mas) from the mainstream particularly other football codes, by showing champagne football; for example they wouldn't understand the finesse of the basic skills, like the long converted would.

Lets say there was a 0-0 draw that the already converted would find entertaining through skill, goal mouth incidents, great defending and goal keeping etc. This would probably mean nothing to people that watch other codes.

Conversely a one-sided thumping of 6-0 would probably mean little to the already converted but would be highly entertaining to the non converted from another code. So unless Soccer Australia can come out and give us their reasons, forget the smaller league.

The bottom line is, and my guess is, non converts would firstly want to see goals, and success for their city or region.

Then as time goes on they would come to understand the skills and finesse that after comes with a 0-0 draw.

The obvious drawback would be the loss of regional teams. Those teams like Gippsland Falcons, Wollongong etc that take soccer to the younger kids in the country. Can anybody tell me what is wrong with increasing the league? Take the game to more regions and cities like Geelong, Hobart, Gold Coast, Darwin, Cairns etc.

I see no reason why these teams, if set up along the lines of the Perth Glory, would not be well supported, likewise the only way an expanded league of this number could be practical would I guess, be the inclusion of a second division. I believe this is being considered by Soccer Australia.

Here I would revert to some of the pitfalls bought up by Tom Sermanni (also in the last ABSW issue) mostly being financial considerations particularly of country clubs in the second division.

Timing is of the essence here, (on its introduction) after more improvement to the current

league, which doesn't include mass culling of regional clubs. Secondly, old teams could sneak in and unfurl their ethnic banner, to the detriment of the league.

My third and last point is the money accrued annually by the champion NSL club in the world club championships. On the outset it seems great but think about it. It could cause vast problems to the NSL as we now know it. Angie Postecoglou on "On The Ball (SBS) said it will be great for soccer."



If one by one NSL teams would go to South America and collect \$3.8 million dollars. As we know this scenario is highly unlikely. The probable scenario is, as in life, the rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer. Meaning that the path of the National Soccer League is heading for self destruction, as a true representative league of Australia.

I hate to sound like Karl Marx but Soccer Australia should take a fair proportion of the money allocated from FIFA to build a fair and amicable league, particularly helping and supporting a viable second division, that will bring in the regions and smaller cities around the country.

Soccer Australia could then promote the game; something that has never been truly done before and something that soccer badly needs.

More matches could be organised to give the Socceroos better preparation for important international events. The positives are endless. I am very surprised that Soccer Australia hasn't grasped the opportunity here. Or perhaps it is continuing its inept leadership.

P.V. Gearing,
Moonee Ponds. VIC

Send letters to
Australian and British Soccer Weekly
PO Box 155
Marrickville NSW 2204
or fax (02) 9550 9332
or e-mail to: soccerweekly@hotmail.com

KNIGHTS KEEPER MAKES HISTORY

FIVE ALL-TIME YOUNGEST NSL GOALKEEPERS

GOALKEEPER	AGE AT DEBUT	TEAM	OPPONENT	DATE	RESULT
David Miller	15y 325d	Adelaide Sharks	Brisbane City	February 1981	Lost 1-2
Steve Niscoli	16y 154d	Adelaide Force	Brunswick Utd	July 1985	Won 2-1
Adam Hrehoresin	16y 155d	Melb. Knights	Perth Glory	November 1999	Lost 1-6
Tom Pezzano	16y 246d	Sydney City	Sydney Olympic	June 1977	Won 2-0
Zeljko Kalac	16y 324d	Sydney United	South Melbourne	November 1989	Lost 0-4

Stats courtesy Andrew Howe

**DEBUT AT 16
YEARS AND
155 DAYS**

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves tough man George Souris celebrated his 30th birthday in New Zealand with a win against the Auckland Kingz. He was the player of the year last season, a most consistent marker in the side. Before joining the Wolves he had great success with Bankstown and Parramatta in the State League.

On match days the Wolves open a new merchandise shop with plenty of souvenir items, club and dress shirts, shorts, balls, caps, etc., a focal point for the fans coming through Brandon Park gate. Director Mario Mastroianni said he had more interesting club items for sale soon. Perhaps a Wolves shop in town might attract more supporters and surely Mario has club merchandise on hand in his own Piccadilly shop.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is working hard at training to keep his players focused on the task ahead. Technical moves are practised again



and again to achieve fluent play when going forward.

Consistency is required if the Wolves are heading for a top position with the coach well aware of that.

Former Wolves player Jock Morlando, who played eight seasons with the club, and his final years with local Premier league side Port Kembla, is retiring and has returned to his junior club Balgownie as player coach in the local first division.

He is well known in the Illawarra for his outstanding playing career, still loving the game to continue coaching. No doubt Jock will lift his old club to better days ahead.

Soccer Illawarra has announced a proposed

playing calendar for competition year 2000. The Corrimal leagues club knock-out, played since 1962 and now going into the 38th year, is to start on February 13th, the competitions in Premier League and first division are to start on March 11th until completion on August 5th. The grand final will be held on September 3rd, well completed the local soccer before Sydney Olympic games commence.

Mr Reliable is Wolves sweeper Robbie Stanton, a former youth international, played with Sydney United and Marconi before signing with the Wolves three years ago. He has played in the NSL for 10 years in more than 300 games. At 27 he is the present Wolves form-player and believes the Wolves have a very solid side this year, capable of achieving a top spot.

Another former State league player is David Huxley, a product of Parramatta. Known as a defensive midfielder, he is only 23 with a good future providing he can avoid injuries.

Two years ago he suffered a severe knee injury forcing him out of the game for over six months. Full credit to him for coming back strongly and regaining his fitness. Huxley has established himself well in the Wolves starting line-up.

The new Wolves Merchandise shop at Brandon Park has created curious interest from the fans. Club director Mario Mastroianni is quite proud of the new shop with plenty of interesting club items at hand. It has become a focal point for the fans coming through the gate.

A nice friendly gesture by Wolves Chairman Doug Symes was the presentation of a gift to Gippsland's soccerroo Mehmet Durakovic for his 250th game in the NSL, appreciated by the spectators and players alike.

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Adam Hrehoresin: Third youngest ever.

By Richard Kreider

At Perth Oval recently, Melbourne Knights' fill-in goalkeeper Adam Hrehoresin became only the third youngest NSL goalkeeper to have ever played in the national league.

Hrehoresin, aged 16 years and 155 days on



November 21 makes him one day older than when former Adelaide Force 'keeper Steve Niscoli made his debut.

The youngest ever NSL goalkeeper was David Miller, who kept the sticks for Adelaide Sharks in February 1981 aged just 15 years and 325 days.



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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PARRAMATTA POWER
SYDNEY UNITED

1

By John Economos

The Parramatta Power v Sydney United clash last Friday night at the Parramatta Stadium, ended most thankfully in a peaceful 1-1 draw without any single trace of anticipated violence that the general media had speculated and over promoted on during the week.

However the Parramatta Power officials had wisely nevertheless trebled their security staff, most in undercover attire with all surveillance cameras scanning the stadium.

Despite referee Eddie Lennie dishing out no less than 10 yellow cards plus a red in the 76th minute to United's central marker Vince Savocca (second yellow) for a crude tackle on the Power's flying marksman Joel Griffiths, the match was anything but violent, but certainly very competitive.

Following a scoreless first session, play generally stepped up a gear or two in the second half as the Power 17 minutes after the break drew first blood through 30-year-old right midfielder Steve Berry.

A John Gibson corner slung in from the left saw Berry inexplicably undetected, rise on his own inside the six yard box to power his header into the target. Berry was totally unchallenged, something that United's coach and former World Cup steel defender David Ratcliffe, would be far from pleased with.

But within six minutes, United had 'balanced the books' at the other end through mobile right midfielder Tommy Podeljak.

United's right wingback Kain Rastall, released the flying Podeljak down the right, Podeljak veered infield to coldly but also delicately, chip the Power's towering goalkeeper Andrew Crews on the first post who had already gone down to spread himself in defense.

Podeljak as early as in the 13th minute, was unlucky when he rifled just wide of the left upright a low drive from a metre outside the box, but two minutes later the Power's John Gibson and Joel Griffiths combined to set up Berry who slammed a first timed shot also just wide of the target.

In the second half the industrious Podeljak set up midfielder Aytekin Genc who drilled his low drive well on target. But he was magnificently denied on 'the floor' by the Power's towering and fully stretched goalkeeper Andrew Crews.

The blond gangling Crews had three minutes before the break again spread himself well to stave off a hot left-footed shot from Matthew Zec, and with a minute left to 'drunks' Crews again blocked out United, this time Mario Jermen who had raced onto a nice diagonal ball from Zec fired into the Power's box.

Right on the hour mark, the Power's lethal striker Griffiths clipped the cross-bar with a frightening rising rocketing drive from the left corner edge of the box.

The windy conditions played havoc with the ball, but surprisingly, both teams in the second half mostly refused to play it flat, electing to take 'Route One' with their long passes.

The Power's coach David Mitchell tried to pull the game out of the fire in the 77th minute when he unleashed his pacey game-breaker Danny Townsend to work the left line. The highly mobile and courageous Townsend did heaps once on, by cutting deep incisions through United's lines, but he lacked the support from his midfielders in the last third.

Best performers for the Power were easily goalkeeper Crews, twin strikers Griffiths and Angelucci and Townsend, whilst United's best were Podeljak, central midfielder Nahuel Arrarte and left midfielder Joe Moric.

Parramatta Power's coach David Mitchell later laconically lamented: "This could have been a reality check that maybe we are not as good as we thought we were after two straight wins. Griffiths will be out for at least two weeks (shoulder injury), but it was a disappointing game and we only deserved a draw as their late runs into the box caused us troubles. My players were flat and didn't have the spark like we had over the past two weeks. I thought Crews (goalkeeper) was our best player," Mitchell ended.

Meanwhile United's surly coach David Ratcliffe, calmly reflected: "I always thought that the first 10 weeks would be the hardest for us (being a newly built side) but was happy overall but not with the sloppy goal we conceded.

"We had a lot of defending to do on set pieces but we're competitive. There were too many yellow cards (10) for a game that wasn't nasty, but in the first half we had two or even three good chances (to score). Jermen (Mario) when he came on did well and Podeljak (Tommy) in his ninth game scored his first goal.

Maybe now he's broken the ice. Arrarte (Nahuel) on Tuesday (today) will go in for a knee operation to clean up his cartilage. Being down a man for 15 minutes seemed a long time, but I felt we came back well after they (the Power) scored.

As far as animosity between these two sets of players, there isn't any. I think this only comes from other areas.

ADELAIDE FORCE
AUCKLAND KINGZ

By Allan Crisp

An intimidating Haka, a goal right on half-time and a dramatic last gasp penalty, provided exciting, unexpected highlights as new chums Kingz shattered the Force's unbeaten home record.

Sadly, for the home fans, what was not unexpected was the continuing failure of the Force to convert simple scoring chances into goals.

That fact brought a chilling post-match confession from Socceroo striker Damian Mori. "I was disappointed with myself. I had three good chances and I didn't take them. I didn't do my job tonight."

Force coach Zoran Matic put the match trend into perspective when he said, "They put in a 10 for hard work. We were two, maybe three."

It doesn't always happen in the World Game, but this time the team which played the best football snared the honors.

The pre-match Haka, performed by a group of local Maoris, was ignored by the Force players as they blithely continued their warm-up.

But, some type of hex must have stuck because the Force lost the services of talented Korean Dongi Ki Kim through injury after 37 minutes.

And despite forcing six corners to one from the Kingz, the home team's lack of punch in front of goals was soul destroying.

The Kingz suffered more with their hard running style forcing Aaran Lines and Chey Bunce off through injury.

Worse came with the loss of goalkeeper Mike Utting seconds before half-time when the Kiwi international landed awkwardly as he strove to save a flying header from Force striker Claudio Pelosi.

Marcus Stergiopoulos proved more than an adequate custodian as he kept a clean sheet, apart from the late, penalty slotted in by Mori.

New Zealand international and former Marconi striker Fred de Jong set the Force rocking on their heels with a thumping header as he rose to connect with a right wing cross from Robbie Middleby.

Pelosi's replying header from a great assist by young Nick Sabljak brought a dream time leveller seconds before the break.

Stuart Riddle reimposed a puzzle for the Force three minutes after the restart when he burst through the middle of the Force defence, rounded goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic and shoved the ball into a vacant net.

The best was yet to come as Chris Jackson fired a thundering 35-metre-drive past a helpless Knezevic to stretch Force's sick statistics to just one win from nine games.

Stergiopoulos looked assured and accomplished in goal, but even before he took over from Utting, the ex-Sydney United player cleared a shot from Mori off the Kingz goalline.

Levent Osman did likewise from another attempt by Mori in the 68th minute but it was Osman's goalkeeping imitation in the final minute when he handled to prevent a goal that brought his dismissal in the form of a red card from referee Gerry Connolly.

Osman will miss this week's clash with Gippsland Falcons, while Force striker Pelosi will be absent through suspension when Adelaide faces Sydney Olympic.

Pelosi collected his fourth booking of the season for a foolish foul on Harry Ngata.

On the credit side, Force will celebrate the return from suspension of captain Alex Tobin and Aurelio Vidmar, who agonisingly watched their team crash and burn against the Kingz.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS
NORTHERN SPIRIT

2
0

By Damian Tripodi

Following two consecutive losses, the Gippsland Falcons came back in style to give Sydney glamour side Northern Spirit a 2-0 drubbing at Mobil Park on Saturday.

Brilliant striking midfielder and newcomer Igor Mandic got their names on the scoresheet as the Falcons, who played most of the second half with only 10 men, gave a dazzling display in front of their home crowd.

The Gippslanders had to win in order not to allow a gap to develop on the ladder and a keep in touch with the leaders.

In an attempt to remedy the poor goalscoring situation of recent performances, coach Jeff Hopkins played with three strikers and in order not to compromise the defence, Doug Marcina had to play a crucial defensive midfield role, which he carried out to the letter.

The game began with the Northerners skills and holding the ball better. The Falcons, on the other hand were more aggressive and made more attacking moves.

The early stages of the game were played mainly in the midfield with only a few speculative attempts at goal. Adam Griffith and Michael Cunico's early shots were routinely taken by Falcons keeper Bojo Jevdjevic. Likewise, on the other end of the ground Juan Nilo and John Hutchinson managed to test Spirit goalie John Perosh.

At the 18th Clayton Bell was on target with a thumping shot from 30 metres, forcing Perosh into a strong save.

The Falcons hit the front at the 21st minute when Robbie Puca, from a free-kick some 32 metres out made the perfect strike. His low left-foot drive found its way into the left side of the net.

Five minutes later, the Home side extended its lead following a centre clearance by Mehmed Durakovic which was taken by John Hutchinson who attempted a chip over the out coming Perosh who fumbled the ball, touch by Nilo and Mandic, in his first NSL game picked up the crumbs and scored.

In the excitement, Mandic overcelebrated according to the referee and his name went into the book. The sweetness of celebrations turned into bitterness, when at the 56th minute, in his baptismal game, the tall striker got his marching orders from referee Con Diomis for a second bookable offence.

With a one-man deficit, the Falcons had to quickly recompose and change their style of play. Hopkins filled up the defence and midfield, with only Nilo up front. Although Nilo was one of the Falcons best on the day, it was no surprise that late in the match, the coach gave him a rest and opted for the taller Brian Macnicol to replace him in the crucial central striker role.

As expected Northern Spirit went on an all out attack, but didn't really appear to worry the determined Falcons, who were brilliant in counter attack.

There was some danger for approximately five minutes midway through the second half when the Falcons were reduced to nine men. Due to the "blood rule" Hutchinson had to leave the field to receive treatment.

To their credit, Spirit made some valiant attempts through Luke Casserly, Abbas Saad and substitute David Seal, Tony Perinich's shot at the 65th beat Jejdevic but Marcina managed to clear the ball off the line. The Falcons, however, were playing the perfect 10 men game and every attempt by the Northerners was driven back.

In the final minutes, the Falcons almost made it three when Macnicol, with three players around him broke through and sent a "cannon" which forced Perosh to draw upon all his skills for an outstretched save.

At the end of the game, the Falcons coach Jeff Hopkins in a proud, but typically modest manner stated that the extra man in attack paid off. "We knew that this was an important game and the lads worked very hard.

"Even in the second half, with one man down we played well. They put an all out attack which didn't leave us much choice but to play only one up," the coach also paid tribute to Robbie Puca's finish from the free-kick. "We spent a lot of time working on set pieces and free kicks and it worked," added the coach.

Northern Spirit coach and normally very approachable former Australian international Graham Arnold was too upset to speak to reporters after the game. His assistant, Ian Crook, however, declared that his team's performance was not acceptable.

"They were just not good enough," he declared.

BRISBANE STRIKERS
SOUTH MELBOURNE

5
1

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers emerged as genuine premiership contenders after humiliating reigning champions South Melbourne 5-1 at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers, who in the process created a club record nine match unbeaten run, were spearheaded by man of the match Paul Foster and rookie midfielder David Pilic.

Foster continued his goal scoring spree averaging a goal a game with a hat-trick while Pilic scored a double in his debut national league season.

The defeat left South Melbourne stranded mid-table and coach Angie Postecoglou somewhat perplexed with the his side's current form slump.

In contrast coach John Kosmina was all smiles, particularly with Foster's performance.

"The difference between this year and last season is that we didn't have a finisher last year," Kosmina said.

"He (Foster) has got a good head on him in front of goals."

South Melbourne played attractive one and two touch football in the opening half and clearly dominated the homeside until a disastrous lapse in concentration in the final two minutes.

Foster, who couldn't make Northern Spirit's starting line-up last season before he headed to Brisbane, broke the scoreless deadlock in the 44th minute when he combined with Peter Grierson in a one-two on the edge of the box before side footing home.

South Melbourne was livid with the opening goal, which the visitors appealed for off-side.

Postecoglou said later he was also a "little bit upset" with the goal but had no complaints with Sydney referee Simon Micallef.

If conceding the shock goal wasn't bad enough for South Melbourne then Pilic's goal less than a minute later tore out their hearts.

Fullback Nick Meredith, who left the field late in the match with a cartilage injury, floated a cross from deep on the sideline over the head of Nick Orlic for Pilic to drive home for a 2-0 lead at the break.

The second half was an embarrassment for the visitors as they lost all sense of composure and discipline.

Foster stretched the Strikers' lead to 3-0 in the 52nd minute scoring off a low cross into the galmouth from Peter Dwyer.

South Melbourne, who has their season interrupted in January when they travel to Brazil to contest the world championships, pegged a goal back in the 57th minute from striker Michael Curcija after a mix-up in the Strikers' defence.

However, the Strikers halted any hopes of a fightback in the 64th minute when Foster landed his ninth goal of the season heading home a perfect cross from Pilic.

The final nail was driven in South Melbourne's coffin in the 67th minute when midfielder Wade Baldwin put Pilic through a gap into the box to slot home past a seething Milan Udvaracz in the South Melbourne goal.

Kosmina, who will soon have Australian Under 17 representatives Wayne Shroj and Jade North to consider for selection rated his team's goals as textbook stuff.

Kosmina will now have a welcomed selection headache with the two Joeys' return but hinted the youngsters may have to force their way into the side.

"They'll be handy to have back and will give us more depth," Kosmina said.

"But I don't want to upset the balance of the squad."

"I've got to stick by these guys."



TURN TO PAGE 32 MATCH STATISTICS

YOUNGSTER SET FOR RETURN

By Greg Danvers

Newcastle Breakers' midfielder Greg Owens is hopeful of a return to NSL football against Brisbane Strikers on Friday night. Coach Lee Sterrey believes the Parramatta Power match is more likely.

Owens was injured in the match against Auckland Kingz on Friday October 22 when he collided with defender Che Bunce and was carried from the field on a stretcher.

His first thoughts were that his season was over but by the following Monday his left knee was in a brace and the time on the sideline estimated at four weeks.

An aggravation soon after the resumption of running added several more weeks and a second opinion from Dr Merv Cross, after seeing Dr Neil Halpin, was given a clearance to resume full training last week.

"I received a clearance from (Doctor) Neil Halpin to go back to full training and I will have to see how it (the knee) goes," Greg Owens said.

"I can't wait to get back into it, but I don't think I will start in first grade."

"I'd like to be back for the home game against Brisbane but it is up to Lee (Sterrey) what he wants to do. If he wants me to play first grade I will."

"I would like to play one game in youth to see how it goes."

Breakers coach Lee Sterrey, while knowing the



Greg Owens: Comeback.

return of such a talented player would add to his squad, is not about to sacrifice the youngster.

"Results don't come into rushing a kid back," Lee Sterrey said of Greg Owens return to training.

"To start with he has got to get some slalom running going so he can go to a marker, check and turn.

"We are just going to make sure we are doing it right."

"Normally big type central defenders you would have them come back through second grade but blokes like Greg (Owens) that don't put an ounce of fat on just need to open up their lungs you can bring back in first grade."

"I can't see him back before the Parramatta game; more likely at home against Perth."

A return to first grade against Perth would ignite the memory banks of last year when Owens scored two screamers for the Breakers to win 3-2 against the Glory at Breakers Stadium.



www.huntersportsdesk.com.au

The premier web site for Sport in the Hunter Valley owned and edited by GREG DANVERS.

The huntersportsdesk covers sport in the Hunter Valley and includes an extensive Newcastle Breakers section along with coverage of the Newcastle Knights. The aim is to provide all sport in the Hunter with an electronic news service.

FACT FILE

#14 Gregory Owens

Date of Birth: 27.01.1981 in Australia

180cm

Height: 180cm

77kgs

Weight: 77kgs

Hazel

Eye Colour: Hazel

Brown

Hair Colour: Brown

Traineeship

Newcastle Breakers

Football Pty Ltd

1997

Occupation: Football

Centre Midfield

Employer: Newcastle Breakers

Football Pty Ltd

Year Joined: 1997

Centre Midfield

Position: Centre Midfield

Previous Clubs: Austral Junior - 6 years;

Austral Super League - 1 year; Adamstown

State League - 1 year.

Representative Honours: Newcastle Rep.

Team - 2 years; Northern NSW - 1 year; Hunter regional - 2 years

NSL Games: 20 at the beginning of 1999/2000 season

Left Knee

Major Injuries: Left Knee

Ambitions: To play first grade weekly

Profile courtesy of Newcastle Breakers Souvenir Programme available from the Jersey Joint at Breakers Stadium.

COSMOS BOAST UNSUNG HERO

By Graham Cooke

Most Canberra Cosmos supporters would be puzzled if asked to name the balding man in his 60's who has become a regular fixture on the bench this season.

In fact, while most of the accolades for the club's revival in 1999-00 are going to head coach Tom Sermanni, no-one at the Cosmos, least of all Sermanni himself, is underestimating the part played by this still relatively obscure staff member.

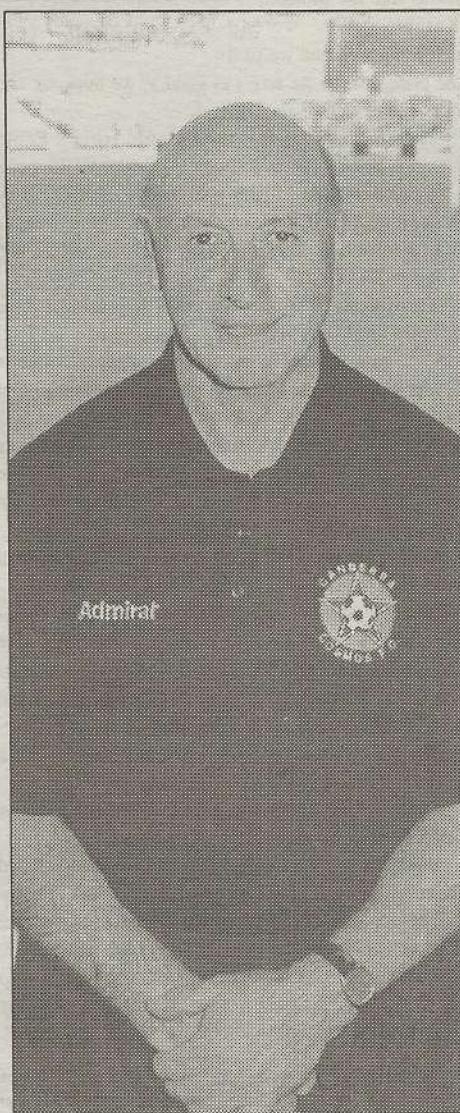
Harry Wardle was involved in top class soccer before virtually anyone else at the club was born, but for many years he was lost to the code as he helped train the nation's top weightlifters at the Australian Institute of Sport.



When that program was axed, he used his talents as a general strength and conditioning coach, assisting all athletes at the AIS, including Ron Smith's soccer team. 'Harry's Gym' became something of a legend on the campus.

But tragedy struck the quietly-spoken Englishman last year when his wife lost a long battle against cancer.

"I had taken sick leave to be with her...in fact



Harry Wardle: Secret success.

I really was ill," he says. "It was exhaustion from the strain and emotion of it all."

He decided he wasn't going back to full-time work, but when Sermanni, an old AIS colleague, took over at the Cosmos at the

beginning of the year, Wardle couldn't resist offering his services.

"At first it was just for a couple of sessions weight training in the gym each week, but the responsibilities just grew and this season it's been more or less full on," he says.

Early pre-season training was almost all weights and agility, and even when the field work became dominant, Wardle was still playing a key role.

"It's important to keep training interesting, and sometimes the head coach gets so involved he loses all sense of time," Wardle says.

"I have an in-built sense for when players are getting tired of something and I give Tom a nudge to go on to a new exercise.

"All the work we do — everything — we try and relate to what happens in a game. It helps no end if the players can link what they are doing at training to situations they experience on the field.

"We have been getting a good response. Last season players made all sorts of excuses to miss training — they were injured or sick or something.

Now the absentee rate has dropped right away.

"Previously, the weight training was haphazard. Many of the players didn't know anything of the benefits it can produce, and those who had an idea were often doing the wrong kind of work."

In the 1950s Wardle was on the staff of English clubs Oldham Athletic and Bury, then played with and against some of the best British players of that era while doing National Service.

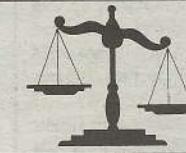
"One of the things I remember was the tedium of endless laps round the ground at training sessions," he says. "For some coaches, that's still the way to go."

Marriage and a young family brought an end to thoughts of a professional career "although I kept playing until I was 35", he said.

Now the former weightlifting coach is revelling in the return to active soccer duty — and hoping to hoist the Cosmos right into the finals race.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

MARCONI STALLIONS
WOLLONGONG WOLVES

1
0

By John Economos

The Marconi Stallions last Sunday night at the Marconi Stadium galloped two places up the League ladder and into joint-second barrier, when a penalty struck in the 12th minute, proved enough to defeat a defiant Wollongong Wolves 1-0.

Marconi's international constructive striker Kris Trajanovski, brilliantly busted clear and into Wollongong's box, but central marker George Souris pulled him back forcing the referee Brett Hugo to flash the yellow card and immediately point to the penalty spot.

Trajanovski, relishing the rewarded chance, grabbed the ball, placed it on the spot, and promptly slammed it tightly into the bottom right corner to lift Marconi into the lead and to their ultimate victory.

For Marconi it was sheer hard work as they were reduced to nine field players from the 58th minute when diminutive midfielder Christian Care was red carded for a second yellow offence. Referee Hugo had booked Care for 'diving'.

The first session ended in a lustreless affair, with only one other chance falling to Wollongong, and that was in the 24th minute.

Following a free kick which import striker Stuart Young volleyed into Marconi's six-yard box, Fijian international striker Esala Masi headed just over the horizontal.

Wollongong, whose game strategy is based on almost non-stop and highly mobile counter attacking, were denied any opportunity to click into their pacey rhythm as they were being chocked in midfield.

Marconi's midfield trio of Care, Brad Maloney and Vlado Zoric plus wingbacks Danny Invincible and Brendan Renaud, constantly pushing in, congested Wollongong's style.

Once Care was sent off, Marconi's coach Eddie Krnecic pulled striker Trajanovski back into the 'gear-box line' leaving halftime substitute striker Francis Awaritefe a lone role upfront to hold up the ball.

This Awaritefe executed exceptionally well, despite not having played all season to date through a damaged left knee.

Three minutes after the break, gangling Fijian striker Masi almost levelled the scoreline when he blasted towards the first post and well on target, but Marconi's elastic 18-year-old goalkeeper Michael Turnbull, brilliantly deflected the missile around his upright for a corner.

The longer the match went on, the harder Marconi worked as a unit to hold out a three pronged frustrated Wollongong attack-line. Here Marconi's twin markers, Chad Gibson and Mike Smith were supreme, gallantly galvanised by their later defender Buddy Farah.

The Wollongong skipper Matt Horsley who notoriously supplies the Wolves' bulk of crosses, was neutralised by Marconi's defiant left wingback Brendan Renaud.

However 17 minutes from fulltime Horsley did manage to slip away and veer into the box. Horsley let fly with a vicious on-target rocket that zeroed for the top right corner, but he watched in horror as Marconi's teenaged flying custodian Turnbull and fully stretched, smacked the missile with his outstretched left glove for a world class and match winning save.

With nine minutes left on the clock, the Marconi coach released yet another teenager, this time 17-year-old Fijian Youth international Josia Junior Sauturaga.

Full of pace and power, the most energetic and athletic Junior, swiftly flew into action, heavily relishing in linking up with Awaritefe. Showing no nerves on his debut, Junior hungrily darted everywhere in support, and the experienced Awaritefe encouraged the young Fijian by feeding a few good balls he fired in to him from the flank.

Five minutes left and Marconi almost doubled their slender scoreline as right wingback Danny Invincible fired in from the right a cross which his skipper Maloney deflected on target but was denied joy by the right upright.

Best for Marconi were Turnbull, Farah, Smith, Trajanovski and Zoric whilst Wollongong's best were sweeper Robbie Stanton, stopper David Cervinski and front runner Masi.

Marconi boss Eddie Krnecic summed up: "Michael (goalkeeper) Turnbull is a wonderful 18-year-old talent and it has not gone to his head. Despite his young age he is able to command his defence. Junior (the 17-year-old Fijian Olympic international) is another exciting talent with great potential. As far as Christian's (Care's) red card, well I didn't think he deserved a second yellow card. It was always going to be a hard game and I knew they would try to pull us out and hit us on the break. It was a good result and now we are equal second with Olympic. I pulled Traja (Trajanovski) back into the midfield after Care was sent off," ended Krnecic.

Meanwhile, Wollongong's coach Nick Theodorakopoulos, reflected: "I was disappointed with the end result like any other coach would be as we started well by trying to get it wide. I thought Marconi's Turnbull and Farah did exceptionally well for them but we didn't dominate even though we had more shots than them on goal. We have now conceded in our last four games three goals, all penalties.

"It was a free flowing game but nothing that really counted. I don't need to over-coach them as we seemed a bit flat. Renaud held out Horsley well but you have to take the good with the bad. I thought George (Souris) in the penalty incident should have been sent off," the Wollongong coach confessed in the end.

CANBERRA COSMOS
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

1
2

By Graham Cooke

Former Canberra Cosmos midfielder Paul 'P.J.' Roberts may be exhibiting the same impeccable sense of timing off the field, as he once did for the club on it.

Having turned down a National Soccer League contract during the winter in favour of trying his luck in the Northern Hemisphere, he is now ready to return after trials with a number of clubs in England and Europe.

At the precise moment when the Cosmos are running into trouble with form and suspensions.

A fortnight ago Cosmos coach Tom Sermanni was saying that Roberts — and anyone else seeking a berth with the club — would probably have to wait until next season.

But speaking 24 hours after Canberra's 2-1-home loss to the Newcastle Breakers last Friday night — their third blank run at Bruce Stadium in six games — Sermanni, ever the pragmatist, was modifying his stance.

"P.J. cannot expect to walk into the team," he said. "But if he is prepared to show me he is better than those who are already there, or has the patience to wait for an opening, then he is welcome to return."

Roberts is expected back in Canberra during the week, and it is just possible he may be available for this Friday night's match with Carlton in Melbourne.

Definitely missing from that game will be striker Michael Musitano, who became the fourth Cosmos player to be given his marching orders in six games when he was dismissed for elbowing Breakers' Glenn Moore shortly after half time.

The Cosmos played their best football in the first half hour and deserved a 24th minute lead, established by Jason Polak in his first goal for the club.

Benefiting from an excellent feed from Gabriel Gonzalez, Polak struck the ball hard and accurately into the corner of the net from his position just inside the penalty box.

Although the home side appeared to be losing their grip on the game, things might have well been different if Newcastle had not struck back at the psychologically damaging moment just before half time — a goal in which veteran Andrew Harper showed all his wiles, and which left some question marks against the judgement of goalkeeper Grant Barlow.

Barlow was half-hearted in an attempt to beat Harper to the ball, allowing the striker a clear view of the empty net for his header.



Tom Sermanni

Newcastle's winner, by this time against 10 men, came through a header from John Buonavoglia in the 59th minute. Buonavoglia is a small man, and should never have been allowed to have his way in the air so close to goal.

In the end the Breakers deserved to take the points as the more organised, disciplined side that may well be working its way towards a top-six place this season. Canberra's own aspirations in this area will depend on a considerable improvement from this sorry baseline.

Sermanni hopes to have both Danny Burt and Nick Purdue back from injury for the game against Carlton — the second time Canberra has faced this opponent in Melbourne in less than a month.

"It's the vagaries of this draw we have had foisted upon us at the beginning of the season... I have not heard a single coach who has had a good word to say about it, even those whose clubs have so-called easy games," he said.

"I don't believe any coaches were consulted on the changes to the draw after Adelaide Sharks withdrew. It's about time the coaches were acknowledged as part of the management structure of this league, rather than goofs in tracksuits who take team training."

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
SYDNEY OLYMPIC

2
1

By Bert van Bedaf

Ivan Kelic was again the hero for the Melbourne Knights, who came from behind to defeat Sydney Olympic 2-1 at Sunshine in an action-packed second half in front of an enthusiastic 5000-plus crowd.

The prolific striker also netted twice in round 7 when the Knights beat Newcastle 3-0 at home.

It was the Knights' third victory this season under three different coaches, Joe Biskic, Mark Talajic and now Vanis have each registered a win.

It was a poor show by near-top Olympic, who should have earned at least a point against the lowly Knights, who remain in second place. The Knights have climbed off the bottom to third last.

Both teams had a player sent off after the break and Olympic also had Scott Thomas stretchered off with a knee injury after a tough tackle by Paul Urlovic in the 84th minute.

Referee Derek Rugg first sent off Chris Zoricich for his second yellow in the 89th minute (first yellow in the 80th minute) and then gave Paul Urlovic his marching orders four minutes into injury time for his second bookable offence (first yellow arrived after only six minutes).

In charge for the first time, Knights coach Vlado Vanis put the blowtorch to the Knights bellies and they responded accordingly. "I told them I don't want nice boys, I want animals from now on. They are going to be like animals at home to fight and win," Vanis declared, hoarse from a tense second half and a long hard week on the training pitch.

Olympic coach Branko Culina wasn't happy but remained philosophical about the defeat.

"When you lose, you have to be disappointed. We were looking comfortable without being sensational," Culina said. "But we have no excuses.

"If you're going to be a top side you have to beat teams like the Melbourne Knights. We weren't defending well and we paid

the price. Maybe we aren't as good as we think we are, or as people say we are," he said.

The first chance fell to Olympic from a Pablo Cardozo free-kick after 26 minutes. Cardozo's 30-metre shot sailed into the Knights goal mouth, where Lindsay Wilson headed it homebound. But Knights' keeper Martin John, back from illness last week, parried the ball with a reflex save.

The Knights responded with their first attempt three minutes from halftime. Dragi Nastevski found Paul Urlovic with a freekick, but the New Zealand striker's header glanced wide of the far post in a uneventful first half.

Apart from the two chances, there were few shots towards goal, but none on target. Cardozo shot over the bar in the 19th minute, while Jason Vukadin aimed wide in the 36th minute for the Knights.

Cardozo found his range in the 58th minute, but John got a hand to his low shot before the ball was cleared.

But it was the Argentinian-born wizard Gabriel Mendez, a former Olyroo, who provided the breakthrough after 61 minutes. His clever throughpass put Scott Thomas free in the box with only John to beat and the defender struck the net.

The Knights bounced back four minutes later with a devastating burst.

Captain Ante Kovacevic led the charge blasting on target from close range.

Bouhousts got a hand to the ball, but Kelic slotted the equaliser home on the rebound.

The popular spearhead turned match winner in the 73rd minute after Urlovic made a brilliant run on goal. Bouhousts dived at his feet but failed to get a firm grip on the ball and Urlovic freed it. Kelic jumped on the loose ball and rebounded it home for the winning goal.

PERTH GLORY
CARLTON SC

4
2

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory produced one of its finest performances last Sunday at Perth Oval when it defeated Carlton 4-2 after having played with a man short for much of the game and for the second time in as many weeks, teenage sensation Ivan Ergic was on fire netting a double and again the goals were of the highest quality.

The emphatic win enabled the Perth side to jump to fourth place on goal difference, on the NSL standings.

"We have now scored 10 goals in the last two games which means we are back in the hunt," said Glory coach Bernd Stange. His side is now the leading scorers with 20 after nine rounds of the competition.

"Carlton are the second best team in the competition and for us to have won so well shows we are very close to our peak. It was a good game for the fans, although it is a pity there was only 11,000 here," Stange said.

"We didn't deserve to get anything from the game today," said an irate Carlton coach Stuart Munro who expressed his disappointment to his charges behind closed doors after the match.

"I spent all week drumming into my players how good Glory's midfield is and especially not to allow Ergic to play his strong running game, but what happens, he scores in the opening minutes. It was the most disappointing Carlton has played since I took over.

I can't find any positives from the game at all," said Munro.

Right from when the visitors kicked off toward the Hill end, the match was played at hectic pace, despite being played in hot conditions. Glory found themselves a goal up after just four minutes when Con Boutsianis centred off the left to Ergic on the front of the Carlton box.

The young striker left his marker in his wake by cleverly swivelling on the ball before running goalwards and steering the ball home past Dean Anastasiadis' right hand.

Glory's new signing Jason Petkovic had a nervous debut and will be the first to admit he was mostly to blame for Carlton's equalising goal after half-an-hour, when a searching centre from Craig Deans was headed tamely into the net by John Markovski.

Both Deans and Markovski would have taken extra delight from the goal since they were both Glory players last season and the local fans were singling them out with their chanting.

The Perth side suffered a set-back eight minutes before the interval when Wehrman received a second yellow card from referee Wayne Dade as a result of a clumsy tackle-from-behind on Andrew Marth. To make matters worse, Petkovic's jitters resurfaced in the 42nd minute when he rushed out of his area to intercept a menacing centre and missed the ball completely.

Andrew Packer had the goal at his mercy but his shot sailed well wide of the target from the edge of the box. It proved a costly miss for the flank runner, since he was replaced by Archie Thompson for the second half.

Moments later at the other end, Ergic came close to putting away a Scott Miller cross but Anastasiadis made an excellent save, low to his left.

The former AIS striker made no mistake in the 52nd minute when he headed a Boutsianis corner into the net at the front post.

But Carlton drew level once more two minutes later when a David Terminello free-kick was headed goalwards by Archie Thomson; Petkovic made a superb reflex save but Alex Moriera pounced on the loose ball and headed home.

Unperturbed, Glory regained the lead in the 64th minute when Miller was the first to react to a Boutsianis ball and powered the ball home off the driving body of Anastasiadis.

A pitch invading female streaker decided to celebrate in her own special way by cartwheeling near the centre circle before being escorted away by almost a dozen burly security guards.

Bobby Despotovski, who had been sidelined for three weeks with a bruised ankle, replaced an exhausted Ergic in the 70th minute and was only in the action two minutes before he carved out Glory's fourth goal of the game.

Boutsianis collected his classy through ball, rounded the keeper and centred accurately to Alistair Edwards who was given the easiest of tap-ins. Carlton's blues worsened three minutes further on when substitute Mike Conroy, who had only been in the game nine minutes, was shown a red card for tripping Gareth Naven.

Glory go into next week's away clash with Sydney United minus not only Wehrman but also Troy Halpin who collected a fourth yellow card for the season.

Another match-winner for Glory was Hamilton Thorp who came in for the suspended Jamie Harnwell. His backline presence grew stronger as the game went on.

TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

TOWARDS SYDNEY 2000

AT A GLANCE

FULL NAME:	Nick Anthony Rizzo
CLUB:	Crystal Palace
Date Of Birth:	9th June 1979
Left or right footed?	Both
Eye Colour:	Brown
Hair Colour:	Brown
Height:	174cm
Weight:	70kg
Positions Played:	Midfield & Striker

THE STATS

Olyroo (Under-23) Appearances (Vs Country)

Olyroo Goals (Vs Country)

National Representative Honours (other):

U-17s, U-20s, Socceroos

Number of Seasons with current Club:

2nd Clubs Played For (current first):

Crystal Palace, Liverpool

Junior Clubs:

Sydney Olympic

Age I started playing soccer:

4

THE LOOK FORWARD

Career Highlight to date: Scoring against Brazil

Biggest Achievement to date: Representing

Australia

Ambition: To play in the Serie A (Italy) or

English Premier League — or both!

PERSONALITY

Favourite Actor:

Chris Tucker

Favourite Actress:

Sharon Stone

Name your Top 5 Movies:

Rocky

Shawshank Redemption

Star Wars

Godfather

Godfather II

Favourite Comedian:

Andrew Dice Clay

Last Book read:

Kevin Keegan's biography

Favourite Magazine:

FHM

Favourite Band/Singer:

Mariah Carey

Favourite Nightclub:

Emporium (London)

Favourite Food:

Pasta

Favourite Drink:

Coke

Favourite TV Show:

Friends

A dinner party for 6, and you can invite anybody - living, dead, fact or fiction - who do you invite?

Mariah Carey

Roberto Baggio

Matt Le Blanc

Jennifer Aniston

Pele

Santa Claus

What do you serve for 3 courses?

entrée: Prawn Cocktail

main: Lasagne

dessert: Chocolate Cake

THE PEERS

Favourite Overseas Player:

Alessandro

Del Piero

Favourite Overseas Team:

Juventus

Most Admired Australian (based OS)

Paul Okon

Most Admired Defender:

Alessandro Nesta

Most Admired Midfielder:

Zinedine Zidane

Most Admired Striker:

Alessandro Del Piero

Most Admired Goalkeeper:

Mark Bosnich

Hardest Opponent (player):

Steve

MacManaman (at training at Liverpool)

Hardest Opponent (team):

Brazil

(U-17s World Cup)

Dream choice of which world league?

Serie-A (Italy)

Most admired Sportsperson:

Roberto Baggio

Major influences:

my brother

Words of advice:

Work hard, think positive,

and it WILL happen.

Olyroo file #5

NICK RIZZO

Q: You are an unknown quantity as far as many Australian soccer supporters are concerned — so WHO IS NICK RIZZO?

A: I don't know — who is he?? No really, I'm a 20-year-old footballer who plays club football with Crystal Palace, and before that, had two fantastic years with Liverpool.

I grew up in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney and played my junior football with Sydney Olympic, which helped me on my way to representing Australia, via the Under-17s.

I was picked up by Liverpool after sending them a couple of tapes of me in action — they invited me for a trial and I was with them for 2 years in first the reserves, and then the first team squad before I moved on to Crystal Palace.

The last time Australian fans would have seen me in action was in the three-match series win over Brazil in March 1998 — and I scored a goal!

Q: You've been away from home for a long time — what do you miss most?

A: Yes, I've been away for 3 years now, and taking into account that my family is with me a lot of the time, I'd have to say the weather — nothing beats Sydney weather!!

Q: How do you think Sydney 2000 could change your life?

A: If things go to plan and we play as well as we can, and of course I play as well as I'm capable of playing, then anything can happen. We'd be naive to think that the whole world, including football scouts won't be watching, and at 20, I've got some big ambitions, so there's always the prospect of moving to a bigger club in Europe, which in turn would make me a bigger personality in Australia, which is very important to me.

Q: Why will the Olyroos perform well at Sydney 2000?

A: We have an incredible amount of good, young players coming out of Australia at the moment, and Raul (Blanco) has the pick of them in his Olyroos squad.

We've shown in the friendlies that we've played so far that we can match it with top quality opposition, and there's no reason to think we can't take that form into the Games.



Nick Rizzo: Honour to play for Australia.

Q: What motivates you?

A: Thoughts of the future and what it could hold for me.

Q: What inspires you?

A: Other footballers doing extremely well and being successful, because they are in a way, a stepping stone to my own aspirations.

Q: How would you describe yourself as a player, and where (and why) do you fit into the Olyroo Squad?

A: I'm an attacking midfield player who is good on the ball and quite quick. OK, I may not be the best defensively, but I make up for it up front with some goals here and there!

Q: What does the chance of being part of the Australian Olympic Football Team mean to you?

A: Let's start with the most important part — that it's always an honour to play for your country. Add to that that Sydney is my home town, and it would be very much a plus to play in front of my family and friends who haven't seen me for a while.

So the chance of being part of this team means a lot to me, as playing for my country is always going to be one of my greatest achievements.

Q: What do you think are the 'pros and the cons' of fighting for selection while playing in England?

A: At this stage of things, I know that Raul is aware of how I'm playing, so, as long as I'm playing, and playing well, I don't think there is a pro or a con as to where it is.

But looking at it another way, the positives of being selected are that you get to come back to Australia more often than you normally would, while the negative I suppose, is that you miss games in England, which

can lead to you losing your spot, but I suppose that's what we're all up against, and a part of the big picture.

Q: Is there a particular Olympian who inspires you, and why?

A: Kieran Perkins (swimmer) — swimming is such a singular sport as opposed to what I do, and particularly the mental stamina he must have, to achieve what he has, is incredible.

Q: Is there any particular team that you are looking forward to facing at the Olympic Games, and why?

A: To tell the truth, it doesn't really make a difference to me. Being a footballer, you take every game virtually the same way because you can't prepare for one game and not another. Physically, you have to be ready for anyone, whether it's Vanuatu or Brazil, and anyone who's qualified for the Olympics is going to be a tough prospect.

Q: Being so far away, you are not directly involved in all the Games build-up and hype which is happening in Australia; are you kept in touch with it in any way shape or form, and do you feel a part of it yet, or not?

A: I do feel a part of it, and that's a combination of being involved with the Olyroo Squad, and being on the internet.

I'm kept in touch with everything going on football wise in Australia by e-mail, so I know exactly what's happening and who's playing, so while I'm far away, I still feel a part of Australian football.

I also read the Australian newspapers every day on the internet, so I know exactly what's happening in Australia, including the Games build-up, at any given time.

Q: And your final words for the Australian public?

A: Make sure you come down and watch the Games as we take on the world, and stick by us because we're going to be successful.

Feature courtesy of Soccer Australia media department. Already profiled Brett Emerton, Steven Laybutt, Lucas Neill and Michael Curcija.

"We have an incredible amount of good young players coming out of Australia."

NORTHERN RUGBY UNION TEAM

25 OCTOBER

NOT PICTURED: Adam Snyder, Dean Culina, Paul Henderson, Paul Williams



Robbie Slater (captain)



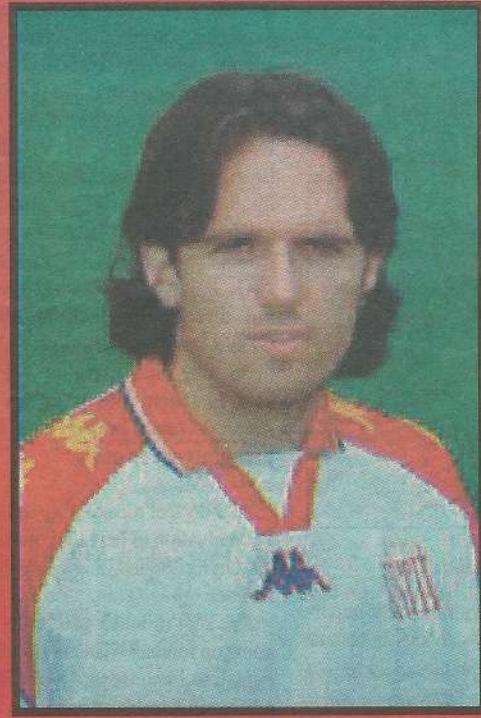
David Seal



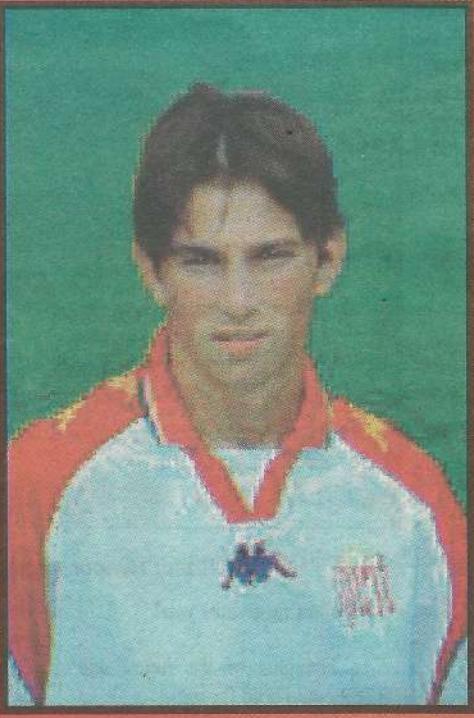
Mark Rudan



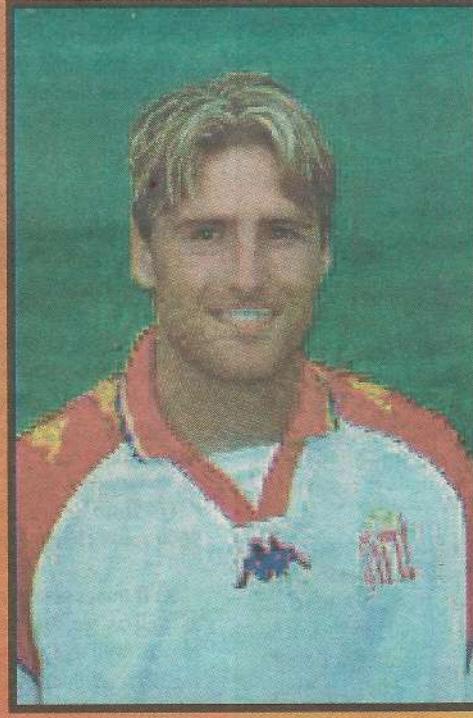
Matthew Lawrie



Michael Cunico



Adam Griffiths



Luke Casserley



John Percival



Antonio Faria



Phillip Moss



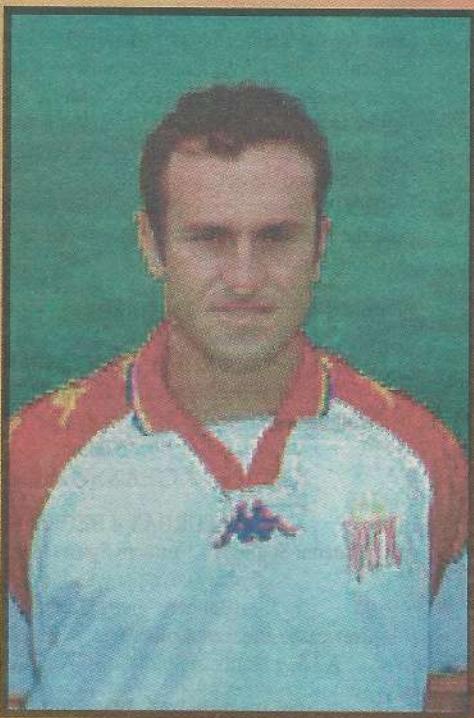
Ryan Griffiths



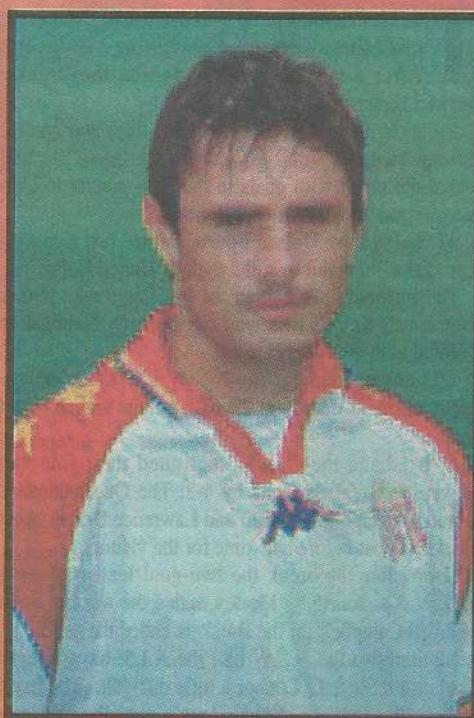
Simon Cata

URN SPIRIT

earne, Shane Lyons, Jess Van Stratten, Abbas Saad, Sean Cranney



Robert Enes



Paul Bilokapic



Graham Arnold (coach)



Jack Sobczyk



Tony Perninich



Matthew Bingley



Troy Cranney



Ian Crook



Elvis Olic

National Youth League

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 9)

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER

A.C.T.A.S.	1	Newcastle Breakers	3
(Mrdja 48)		(Rufo 35, Mansley 70, Johnson 89)	
Parramatta Power	2	Sydney United	0
(scorers unavailable)			

SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Sydney United Colts	0	N.S.W.I.S.	3
(Martin 15, Carney 67, Avaness 89 pen)		(Martin 15, Carney 67, Avaness 89 pen)	
Marconi Stallions	5	Wollongong Wolves	2
(Karl 19, 37, 67, 85, Mondello 85)		(Aldridge 34, Dimech 48)	
Q.A.S.	4	Newcastle Breakers Colts	2
(Bonato 13, Drake 17, McKay 51, Morley 73)		(Provost 43, Campbell 90)	
A.I.S.	1	Northern Spirit	2
(Bajurin 10)		(Monie 23, Culina 80)	

SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Sydney Olympic Academy	1	Sydney Olympic	4
(Sarmonikas 70)		(Chahine 2, 73, Pisano 29, Biviano 61)	
Marconi Stallions		Wollongong Wolves	

Bye - Northern Spirit Colts

	8	7	1	1	0	28	4	22
A.I.S.	9	5	2	0	2	31	10	17
Sydney Olympic	7	5	2	1	0	17	5	17
Q.A.S.	8	5	1	1	2	26	10	16
Northern Spirit	7	5	1	1	1	13	7	16
Newcastle Breakers	9	4	1	0	4	15	14	13
Marconi Stallions	7	4	0	0	3	10	13	12
A.C.T.A.S.	8	3	2	1	3	15	17	11
N.S.W.I.S.	7	3	1	1	3	11	7	10
Sydney Olympic Academy	7	3	0	1	4	16	26	9
Northern Spirit Colts	6	2	2	1	2	8	8	8
Wollongong Wolves	7	2	1	1	4	7	14	7
Sydney United	6	2	1	0	3	6	15	7
Newcastle Breakers Colts	9	1	1	0	7	10	22	6
Marconi Stallions Colts	7	1	2	0	4	8	19	5
Sydney United Colts	10	1	2	0	7	11	23	5
Wollongong Wolves Colts	6	0	1	1	5	5	23	1

By Theo Katsaros

The Newcastle Breakers travelled to Canberra on Friday night and came away with a convincing 3-1 win over the A.C.T.A.S. After a slow start to the season the Breakers have steadily worked their way up the ladder.

Joshua Rufo opened the scoring for the visitors in the 35th minute but Antony Mrdja levelled for the hosts after 48 minutes. The Breakers sealed the result with goals in the 70th minute to Chad Mansley and a last minute strike by Mitchell Johnson.

At the Sydney United Sports Centre last Saturday the N.S.W.I.S. recorded a 3-0 result over the Sydney United Colts.

The Institute have battled the last few weeks without the services of their coach Kelly Cross who has been on National team duty in New Zealand with the Joeys.

The goalscorers for the N.S.W.I.S. were Tallan Martin after 15 minutes, David Carney in the 67th minute and an 89th minute penalty to Avaness. In Brisbane the Q.A.S. continued their fine form defeating the Newcastle Breakers Colts by 4-2. The Queenslanders led 2-0 after 17 minutes through Ian Bonato and Lawrence Drake. Alex Provost reduced the deficit just before half-time for the visitors.

Soon after the break the two-goal lead was restored by Matthew McKay. The fourth by Morley sealed the win but an injury time goal to Mitchell Campbell for the Breakers ended the action.

Similarly to the N.S.W.I.S., the A.I.S. have found life without their head coach Steve O'Connor a little difficult. The Institute has struggled without the services of their Joey's over the past month. The loss of Wayne Shroo, voted by some in New Zealand as the player of the tournament, Jade North, Lucas Pantelis and Joshua Kennedy has tested the depth of the reigning champions.

The Northern Spirit Youth achieved what no other team has in the past three years last Saturday night when they defeated the A.I.S. at the A.I.S. Soccer Field by 2-1.

The Institute led after 10 minutes courtesy of a Tommy Bajurin strike but James Monie equalised for the Spirit in the 23rd minute. After the break the A.I.S. were reduced to 10 men when Dustin Wells was sent off for his second bookable offence. Things went from bad to worse a minute later for the hosts when Wes Bryett was dismissed for a dangerous tackle.

The Spirit took advantage and handed the A.I.S. their first home loss in over three years when Dean Culina scored in the 80th minute.

Sunday's matches saw Sydney Olympic defeat their Academy at Wentworth Park. The 4-1 result could have been anything if the Youth team strikers had been on song. The scorers for the Youth were Ali

Chahine, who bagged a double, and singles to Damian Pisano and Peter Biviano. Anthony Sarmonikas scored for the Academy.

The late game at Marconi Stadium ended with the Marconi Stallions securing a resounding 5-2 victory over the Wollongong Wolves. The hero for the Stallions was undoubtedly Harry Karl. Karl has found it difficult to break into the first team this season but his four goals may soon change that. He broke the deadlock in the 19th minute and also struck in the 37th, 67th and 85th minutes. Anthony Mondello scored for the Stallions after 36 minutes. For the Wolves, David Aldridge and Paul Dimech found the net.

The Parramatta Power beat Sydney United by 2-0 last Friday night and the Marconi Stallions Colts recorded an emphatic 5-1 win over the Wollongong Wolves Colts.

ROUND 10

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 1999

Newcastle Breakers v Q.A.S. (Breakers Stadium - 5.15pm)
Wollongong Wolves v Sydney Olympic Academy (Brandon Park - 5.00pm)

N.S.W.I.S v A.C.T.A.S. (Valentine Park - 7.00pm)

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER 1999

Marconi Stallions v Northern Spirit (Marconi Stadium - 4.00pm)
Sydney Olympic v Sydney United Colts (Belmore Sports Ground - 4.30pm)

Newcastle Breakers Colts v Q.A.S. (Breakers Stadium - 5.00pm)

A.I.S. v Northern Spirit Colts (AIS Soccer Field - 7.00pm)

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 1999

Sydney Olympic Academy v A.I.S. (Wentworth Park - 4.00pm)
Newcastle Breakers Colts v Parramatta Power (Breakers Stadium - 5.00pm)

Sydney United v Wollongong Wolves Colts (Sydney United Sports Centre - TBA)

Bye - Marconi Stallions Colts

LEADING SCORERS

Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	7
Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	7
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	6
Damian Pisano	Sydney Olympic	6
Kevo Gulesserian	A.I.S.	5
Franco Parisi	Sydney Olympic Academy	5

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 6)

Saturday 27 November 1999

VIS	3	Albury Wodonga	0
(Naum Sekulovski, Ray Sekulovski, Evan Papadopoulos)			
Preston Lions	0	South Dandenong	1
(Scorer not available)			

Gippsland Falcons	1	Melbourne Knights Academy	0
(Sandy Robertson)			

Sunday 28 November 1999

Melbourne Knights	0	Carlton	2
(Ace Stojcevski, Deniz Ekici)			
Bulleen Inter	5	Fawkner Blues	1
(Ryan Ollerton, Xhezair, Sulemani, Adam Curcija, Luigi Gullaci, Michael Marinelli)		(Robert Carmingiani)	

South Melbourne v Bye

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	6	6	0	0	22	2	18
VIS	5	5	0	0	15	0	15
Bulleen Inter Kings	5	4	0	1	15	6	12
Melbourne Knights	6	3	1	2	23	14	10
Gippsland Falcons	5	3	0	2	8	13	9
South Dandenong	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	14	6	6
Fawkner Blues	5	1	2	2	8	10	5
Albury Wodonga	6	0	1	5	7	27	1
Melbourne Knights Academy	5	0	0	5	2	8	0
Preston Lions	6	0	0	6	1	30	0

ROUND 7

VIS v Fawkner Blues Albury Wodonga, (Grange Reserve, 4 pm)
Gippsland Falcons v Melbourne Knights, (Falcons Stadium, 4 pm)

Sunday 5 December 1999

South Melbourne v Preston Lions (Bob Jane Stadium, 3.30 pm)

Carlton beat Melbourne Knights by 2-0 in the match of the round in the Southern Division at Knights Stadium last Sunday. Hot and windy conditions greeted the players and all were glad of the water breaks half way through each period of play.

Carmelo Impiombato should have given the Knights a lead in the 20th minute when he went clean through but under pressure from keeper Steve Tilovski he scuffed his shot wide.

Ace Stojcevski came closest for Carlton with a shot just outside the post, and the first half ended goalless. Impiombato had another one-on-one with the keeper but could not beat him and it was Carlton which finally broke through in 74 minutes

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ABSW

★★ SPECIAL FEATURE ★★

There's nothing like a ...

DERBY DAY

By Sharon Jackson*

Electric, that's what it was, the atmosphere at the Dubliner Bar, Brisbane earlier this month. It was the only venue in town showing the England/Scotland opening qualifier.

Holding an England/Scotland match in an Irish bar seems a bit rich at first glance but the capacity crowd was evidence the marketing people had done their homework.

Top marks to the Sentana media satellite group who organized to show this at the right price, \$20.00 each. It was a sell out with over 2000 phone calls received.

Where was Fox with their exclusive (very expensive) broadcasts? Well, they missed out big time here.

Looking around, I could see the blue shirts, kilts and tartan wigs of the Scots nestled closely at the bar with the white shirts of the English. Sean Connery would have been on a loser here. Accents abounded, as did the various club shirts.

To see Arsenal shirts happily mingling amongst Spurs would send any battle hardened policeman reaching for his hip flask and it was not long before the familiar spine-chilling chants began in earnest.

In the build-up to the game, the pub had thoughtfully provided entertainment; a duo called The Waves.

They bravely sang through their sets

possibly playing to their biggest audience ever but were constantly drowned out by the haunting "Flower of Scotland and Rule Britannia".

There was no segregation and no need as we sang with all the passion of the terraces for this latest meeting of the auld enemies.

Had the air conditioning been on full blast, it would have been very easy to believe you were in Hampden on a Scottish autumn afternoon.

Not since Euro 96, has this atmosphere been tasted and we drank in it like thirsty caneworkers. It was tremendous, giving some a high that lasted well into the next day. Song and good cheer carried on as the Scots defence wavered and Scholes unleashed his magic. The only sign of trouble was a young Scot throwing his beer into a nearby English group.

Remember this is now around 2am and the "ground" is still serving beer. It shows you these are real fans and are deserving of praise for this "the derby of all derbies."

Local derbies are the most eagerly awaited matches throughout the season. It brings out the best (and worst) in players and fans and gives us the most entertaining soccer to be found. Why should this be so?

Why would anyone support Arsenal over Spurs? Or Liverpool over Everton. And bring such a passion to these particular matches?

Euro-derbies have their passion steeped in history from the Christmas

Day Truce in 1915 when they played a game in no-man's land. But for local sides?

A history of success is one reason for Manchester United's now global support. A young fan travelled for three days across China to see them on their recent tour.

Many people say it is because it was the first team their fathers took them to see but since when was Liverpool the most populous city in the world?

Naturally, family plays a large part as does religion. Ask any Celtic or Rangers fan. People's traditions die hard even in this era of change.

A lot of us identify with the players, past and present. If you're from Northern Ireland, George Best and if you're black, Clyde Best.

Then, of course, there's the peer pressure of having to follow the current most successful team while secretly nurturing a love of Accrington-Stanley.

This must come from our strong empathy with the underdog. Why else does Prince Harry support Middlesbrough. Still, he is known to be the joker of the pack.

But by far, it's because we want to see our local side succeed—even if they are bottom of the third division.

It's instinctive to want your tribe to be the best and it's always best when you beat the tribe from the next street.

It explains the steadfastness of the Manchester City fans against the domination of United and the dogged survival of the clubs in the lower divisions.



English Heroes: David Beckham hugs David Seaman after qualifying for Euro 2000.

We all want to be the best at something and if not yourself, your team is the next best thing. Well, perhaps not synchronized swimming but you get the picture.

Allegiance to a soccer club is for some a complex thing and for others, quite simple. For some, it's not important at all.

Rugby fans for example (obviously they can't spell soccer). Some live and die for the game, replacing the religion and sometimes the family that showed the way.

Whoever and why ever becomes academic now. Days pass and familiar faces filter back into the Dubliner for the Wembley decider. Nearly two-thirds full, many had driven for over and hour for this and they still had to go to work.

These are supporters and they soon began to make their presence heard in the time-honoured way. Quieter than the first match but with all of the feeling.

As the game unfolds, the Scots glimmer of hope begins to fade, stoic acceptance written on the faces.

The English are quietly thrilled despite a loss on their hallowed ground. Either way, with people like these, soccer will always be the winner.

You can keep the All-Blacks, the Wallabies and the synchronized swimming, give me a soccer derby anyday.



Passions run high between the auld enemy.

* Sharon Jackson is a freelance journalist based in Brisbane.

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SOCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

FULL-TIME FOOTBALLERS

JUST HOW HARD DO AUSTRALIA'S BEST FEMALE FOOTBALLERS WORK AT THEIR GAME?

The Matildas' program at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra is often described as a full-time training program, but you may have wondered just how much time do these players really put in.

Traditionally soccer may not be regarded as a sport where too many hard yards are cranked out, especially when you compare it to other sports like swimming or athletics.

You may think, how many hours can you spend kicking that little ball around?

Well think again. These are the players working to compete at the very highest levels of the game, and after the World Cup, it was clearly apparent that there was still so much work to be done.

Continual improvement is what is required, and yet every other nation is doing the same thing, so it then takes something extra to really grab that edge.

Soccer is a sport one can never perfect, there is always so much more to learn, no matter what level you've reached.

And there are so many different facets to the game of football — the fitness, the technique, the understanding, the team dynamics, the tactics, the decision-making — that's what makes it such a wondrous thing.

Since the AIS program recommenced in September under new National Coach Chris

Tansey, the commitment and sacrifices of the players has multiplied in working to a completely new training regime and schedule.

Six days a week training, comprised of three full days and three mornings, meant there was little time for work or study, but the players soon realised that it had to be done if the goals were to be realised.

Very few remain in the jobs they held previously, most grabbing what work they could with the assistance of the AIS career personnel, and juggling very tight budgets.

Neither will the Christmas period be the

traditional fare of family, food, and holiday fun.

With the Australia Cup soon after, players will remain in Canberra and, come Boxing Day will be back out on the pitch.

The players have been given a brief break this week, most travelling home to spend time with family and friends whilst they have the opportunity.

But the buzz around the training pitch is alive, the players lapping up every new thing they are learning.

Though tested and challenged with every session, no-one wants to miss a single thing. The passion engendered by Tansey is just infectious.



Amy Taylor



Tracey Bartlett: In action for the Matilda's.



MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE 2000

The Dolphins have won promotion to the NSW Women's Super League (Under 21's and 1st Grade).

Training/Trials will commence as follows:

Wednesday 8 December 1999

6.30 to 8.30pm (Passmore Reserve)

Monday 13 December 1999

6.30pm to 8.30pm (Mona Vale Beach)

Wednesday 15 December 1999

6.30 to 8.30pm (Passmore Reserve)

Friday 17 December 1999

6.30 to 8.30pm (Passmore Reserve)

Players aged 15 & above are encouraged to stand for selection Passmore Reserve, Campbell Street, Manly Vale (opposite Mackellar Girls High) Mona Vale Beach, Surfview Rd, Mona Vale (at Surf Club)

All enquiries to Michael Beckett (Head Coach) 0418-688-086

TIME	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
6.30 - 10am	GYM (8-9.30am) BREAKFAST + VIDEO ANALYSIS 9.30-10.30am		RECOVERY (25m Pool) 8.30-9am BREAKFAST & TEAM MEETING 9.9.30am AEROBICS Indoor 10-11am	GYM (6.30-8am) BREAKFAST (meeting room) 8-8.30am TRAINING (8.30-10.30am)	TRAINING 8.30-10.30am GAME 9.30am	BREAKFAST & TEAM MEETING 8.15am PRACTICE	FREE
10am-12pm	TRAINING 10.30-12pm	TRAINING 10-12pm	SNACK		FREE	FREE	RECOVERY (spa & plunge pool) 11.15-11.45am POOL
1-2pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	GYM 12-1pm				Relax, enjoy yourselves
2-8pm	AEROBICS (Indoor) or TRAINING (Outdoor) 3-5pm RECOVERY (spa & plunge pool) 5-5.30pm	VIDEO ANALYSIS (2-3.30pm) PRACTICE GAME 6.30pm	LUNCH TRAINING 3-4.30pm RECOVERY (spa & plunge pool) 4.30-5pm VIDEO ANALYSIS & SNACKS 5-6pm	(TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL COACHING SESSIONS) FREE	(TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL COACHING SESSIONS) FREE	FREE	FREE
	FREE	RECOVERY (spa & plunge pool) 8.30pm	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE

WORLD

PREMIER LEAGUE (ENGLAND)

ARSENAL 2 DERBY 1

Arsenal had to come from behind to make sure of a third place thanks to two goals from Thierry Henry. French international Henry twice got on the end of intelligent passes from Dutch midfielder Marc Overmars to score in the 11th and 50th minutes after Derby had gone ahead in the second minute through a low shot from striker Dean Sturridge.

The London club are three points behind leaders Leeds.

CHELSEA 1 BRADFORD 0

Chelsea have struggled in domestic football despite their good form in Europe.

But Norwegian striker Tore Andre Flo side-footed home a corner from Gianfranco Zola in the 16th minute to earn three vital points.

NEWCASTLE 2 TOTTENHAM 1

Georgian forward Temuri Ketsbaia gave the home side the lead in the fifth minute when he scrambled the ball home. But Tottenham equalised just before halftime after a weaving run down the right by Frenchman David Ginola. Ginola provided the perfect cross for Chris Armstrong to stab the ball home.

Newcastle scored the winner in the 58th minute when Greek defender Nikos Dabizas headed home a Nolberto Solano corner.

LEEDS 1 SOUTHAMPTON 0

Leeds knew they needed three points to go top of the table but struggled to dominate and were extremely fortunate to win.

They were under pressure from Southampton in a goalless first half. But in injury time Michael Bridges struck a fierce right-footed shot from the edge of the penalty area to put his side two points ahead of Manchester United at the top.

COVENTRY 0 LEICESTER 1

Striker Emile Heskey struck Leicester's winner in the 60th minute when he turned his marker well and blasted the ball home from the edge of the penalty area. Coventry, who have been in good form, piled on the pressure afterwards but could not score.

EVERTON 0 ASTON VILLA 0

Villa manager John Gregory went into the game with his job in danger after his team's disappointing run but the away side managed to grab a point. The game was largely untidy with few goalscoring chances.

M'BORO 0 WIMBLEDON 0

Wimbledon were not afraid to take on the home side but this was no classic. England international Paul Ince went close to striking a winner for Middlesbrough but it would have been an unfair victory and the points were shared.

WEST HAM 1 LIVERPOOL 0

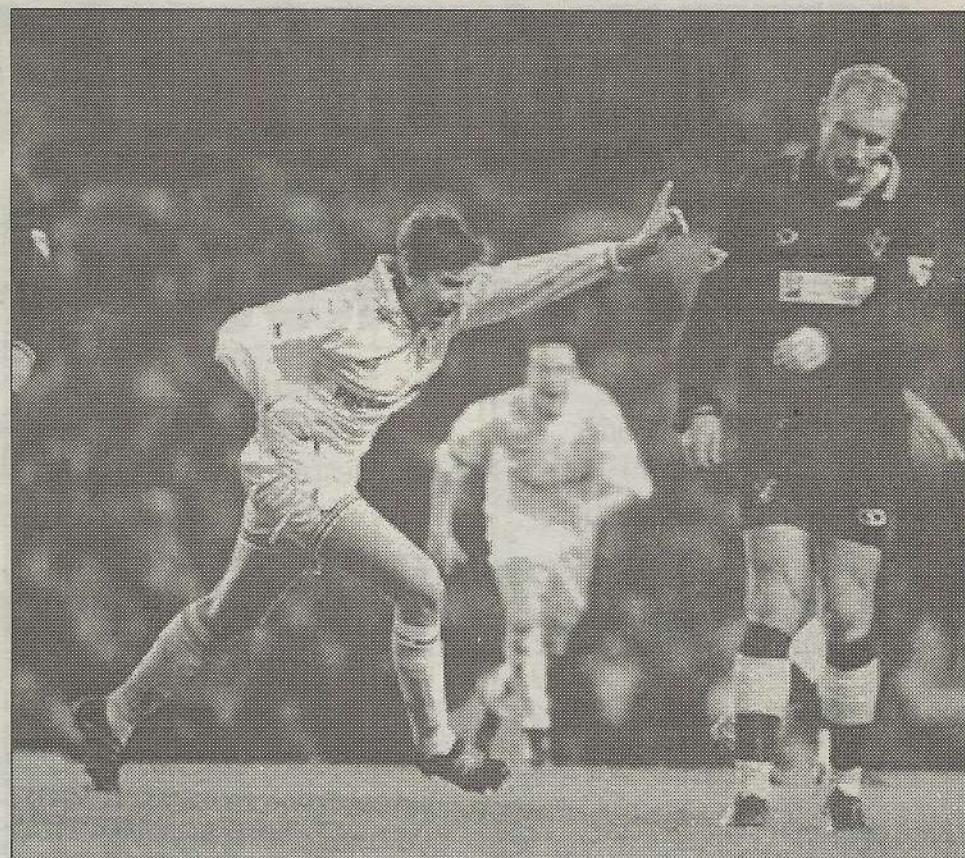
Liverpool were without midfielder Jamie Redknapp — the son of West Ham manager Harry Redknapp — because of a knee injury.

The away side also lost Czech midfielder Patrik Berger early in the first half through injury. There were few chances in the first half but the home side took the lead just before halftime when Trevor Sinclair pounced from close range. Liverpool worked hard after the break but the defeat ended their superb run of four wins in their previous five games.

WATFORD 2 SUNDERLAND 3

Struggling Watford took a surprise lead in the fourth minute when Michel Ngonge volleyed home. Former Watford player Kevin Phillips had a hand in the Sunderland equalizer in the 24th minute when his shot was deflected into the net by Robert Page.

The goal was given as an own goal but Phillips got on the score sheet nine minutes later with a header.



Michael Bridges: His lone goal against Southampton put Leeds on top of the Premier League.

Watford equalized with a penalty from Richard Johnson in the 49th but Gavin McCann darted into the area in the 70th to squeeze in the winner. Watford had Xavier Gravelaine sent off in the 90th minute for a tackle.

in the 51st minute. Crespo had the chance to save Parma's six-match unbeaten record when he stepped up to take a last minute penalty, but Sebastiano Rossi saved the spotkick.

REGGINA 0 INTER MILAN 1

Inter had to wait until the dying minutes to clinch their first away win since winning at Torino in September.

There were just two minutes remaining when substitute Alvaro Recoba of Uruguay grabbed his second goal in successive matches.

TORINO 0 PERUGIA 1

Perugia repeated their victory in a 1998 second division promotion play-off against Torino thanks to defender Alessandro Calori's 45th minute goal. It was the home side's first defeat in seven matches.

UDINESE 0 AS ROMA 2

Marco Delvecchio single-handedly clinched Roma's first win at Udine since 1993, and their fourth away from the Olympic stadium this season, with two second-half goals.

In the 73rd minute, the lanky striker punished slack defending in the Udine six-yard box to put Roma ahead. Then, with three minutes left, he added his sixth of the season by breaking clear from the halfway line, holding off the challenge of Marco Zanchi and beating Luigi Turci.

FIorentina 0 Bologna 0

Fiorentina rarely looked like claiming their first away win since January, displaying little of the enterprise that accounted for Manchester United in the Champions League last week, relying on goalkeeper Francesco Toldo to deny Bologna a deserved win.

After pulling off a string of fine first-half saves, the former Italy keeper blocked an injury-time shot from substitute Davide Fontolan who had the goal at his mercy.

PIACENZA 1 VERONA 0

Arturo Di Napoli lifted perennial strugglers Piacenza out of the relegation area with a controversial 42nd minute penalty after striker Davide Dionigi fell to the ground shielding the ball from three defenders.

It was the home side's first win in four matches.

AC MILAN 2 PARMA 1

Croat Zvonimir Boban gave Milan the perfect start with an eighth minute opener direct from a free-kick.

Argentine Hernan Crespo levelled straight after the break only for Paolo Maldini to restore Milan's lead



Juan Veron (L) & Edgar Davids (R): The Juventus-Lazio top-of-the-table clash ended goalless.

WORLD

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



GROUP A

Porto (Portugal)
Hertha Berlin (Germany)
Barcelona (Spain)
Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Hertha Berlin 1 Barcelona 1
Michalke 33 Luis Enrique 14
Sparta Prague 0 Porto 2
Druolovic 77, Jardei 84

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Porto v Hertha Berlin
Barcelona v Sparta Prague

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Barcelona v Porto
Hertha Berlin v Sparta Prague

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Porto v Barcelona
Sparta Prague v Hertha Berlin

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Barcelona v Hertha Berlin
Porto v Sparta Prague

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Hertha Berlin v Porto
Sparta Prague v Barcelona

Table

Porto	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Barcelona	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hertha Berlin	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sparta Prague	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP B

Bordeaux (France)
Fiorentina (Italy)
Manchester United (England)
Valencia (Spain)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fiorentina 2 Manchester Utd 0
Batistuta 25, Balbo 52
Valencia 3 Bordeaux 0
Farinos 60, Ilie 66, Gonzalez 88

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bordeaux v Fiorentina
Manchester Utd v Valencia

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Manchester Utd v Bordeaux
Fiorentina v Valencia

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Bordeaux v Manchester Utd
Valencia v Fiorentina

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Manchester Utd v Fiorentina
Bordeaux v Valencia

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Fiorentina v Bordeaux
Valencia v Manchester Utd

Table

Valencia	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Fiorentina	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Manchester Utd	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bordeaux	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP C

Bayern Munich (Germany)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)
Real Madrid (Spain)
Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Dynamo Kiev 1 Real Madrid 2
Rebrov 85pen Morientes 17, Raul 48
Rosenborg 1 Bayern Munich 1
Skamnelsrud 47 Jancker 10

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Bayern Munich v Dynamo Kiev
Real Madrid v Rosenborg

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Real Madrid v Bayern Munich
Dynamo Kiev v Rosenborg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Bayern Munich v Real Madrid
Rosenborg v Dynamo Kiev

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev
Bayern Munich v Rosenborg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Dynamo Kiev v Bayern Munich
Rosenborg v Real Madrid

Table

Real Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bayern Munich	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Rosenborg	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dynamo Kiev	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP D

Feyenoord (Netherlands)
Olympique Marseille (France)
Lazio (Italy)
Chelsea (England)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Marseille 0 Lazio 2
Stankovic 64, Conceicao 78
Chelsea 3 Feyenoord 1
Babayaro 45 Julio Cruz 90
Tore Flo 67, 86

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Feyenoord v Marseille
Lazio v Chelsea

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Lazio v Feyenoord
Marseille v Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Feyenoord v Lazio
Chelsea v Marseille

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Lazio v Marseille
Feyenoord v Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Marseille v Feyenoord
Chelsea v Lazio

Table

Chelsea	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Lazio	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Marseille	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Feyenoord	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

BSkyB CUTS STAKE IN MAN. UTD

BSkyB cut its stake in European champions Manchester United by 1.13 percent to 9.99 percent last week to comply with rules laid down by the English Premier League on multi-club ownership.

BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's television subscription satellite service, also owns a 9.1 percent stake in premier league rivals Leeds United and earlier this month acquired a 9.9 percent stake in Mancesheter City.

City are currently top of the first division and on their recent form are favourites to regain their place in the top division of English soccer next season.

Premier League rules forbid ownership of more than one club.

To permit multiple holdings, an investor's stake in each club must be less than 10 percent.

The Premier League said it had turned down a request by Manchester United that BSkyB be allowed to retain its 11.1 percent holding.

"We are firmly of the view that BSkyB should not continue to hold a 11.1 percent stake in Manchester United and must reduce this to below 10 percent," Premier League Chief

Executive Richard Scudamore said in a statement.

BSkyB said in August when it announced its purchase of the Leeds stake for 13.8 million pounds (\$22.42 million) it would reduce its stake in Manchester United.

BSkyB, which is 40 percent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, has exclusive live TV rights to Premier League matches and used these rights as its launchpad for growth in the 1990s.

Some media analysts have said the stake-building in various Premier League clubs is an attempt by BSkyB to cement its position with Premier League clubs before the current TV contract expires in 2001.

However BSkyB has said the stakes would not influence the league's decision on UK television rights.

BSkyB's move in August to buy into Leeds follows a similar deal by rival media company Granada Group Plc in July, who agreed to buy a 9.9 percent stake in fellow Premier League club Liverpool for 22 million pounds.

BSkyB was blocked by competition regulators earlier this year when it tried to take over Manchester United for 623.0 million pounds (\$1.01 billion).



QUARTER FINALS

FIRST LEG — April 5
SECOND LEG — April 19

SEMI-FINALS

FIRST LEG — May 3
SECOND LEG — May 10

FINAL

Wednesday, May 24
At Stade de France



FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until December 22)



1 Brazil	69 Costa Rica	136 St Kitts & Nevis
2 France	70 Burkina Faso	138 Libya
3 Czech Republic	71 Guatemala	139 Benin
4 Spain	72 Mali	140 St Vincent/Gr
5 Germany	73 Estonia	141 Ethiopia
6 Croatia	74 Bosnia-Herzegovina	142 Solomon Islands
7= Argentina	75 Gabon	143 Panama
7= Norway	76 Cuba	144= Andorra
9 Romania	77 Honduras	144= San Marino
10 Mexico	78 Iraq	144= Sri Lanka
11 England	79 Uzbekistan	147= Dominica
12 Italy	80= Northern Ireland	147= Saint Lucia
13 Yugoslavia	80= Canada	149 Antigua & Barbuda
14 Denmark	82 Nigeria	150 Maldives
15 Portugal	82 Senegal	151 Lesotho
16 Sweden	84 Namibia	152 Gambia
17 Netherlands	85 AUSTRALIA	153 Laos
18 Paraguay	86 Albania	154 Dominican Republic
19 Russia	87 Armenia	155 Nepal
20 Slovakia	87 Algeria	156 Yemen
21 United States	89 Togo	157 Cayman Islands
22 Chile	90 Guinea	158 Mauritania
23 Scotland	91= Oman	159= Rwanda
24= Morocco	91= Qatar	159= Kyrgyzstan
24= Colombia	93 Moldova	161 Niger
26= Israel	93 Wales	162 Surinam
26= Austria	95 El Salvador	163 British Virgin Is.
28 Ukraine	96 Belarus	164 Bermuda
29 Tunisia	97 Indonesia	165 Botswana
30 Belgium	98 Azerbaijan	166 Korea DPR
31 South Africa	99 Mozambique	167 Netherlands Antilles
32 Poland	100 Haiti	168 Eritrea
33 Turkey	101 New Zealand	169 Palestine
34 Greece	102 Congo	170 Cambodia
35 Zambia	103 Kenya	171 Guyana
36 Republic of Ireland	104 Singapore	172 Guinea-Bissau
37 Bulgaria	104 Liberia	173 Chinese Taipei
38 Egypt	106 Vietnam	174 Macao
39 Saudi Arabia	107 Syria	175 Cape Verde Is
40 Trinidad & Tobago	108 Uganda	176 Tonga
41 Korea Republic	109= Lebanon	177 Samoa
42 Uruguay	109= India	178 Philippines
43= Slovenia	111 Venezuela	179 Pakistan
43= Jamaica	112 Faroe Islands	180= Cook Islands
45 Peru	113 Malawi	180= Papua New Guinea
46 Iran	114 Barbados	180= Chad
47 Hungary	115 Jordan	183 Vanuatu
48 Iceland	116 Malaysia	184 Puerto Rico
49 Switzerland	117 Tajikistan	185 Brunei Darussalam
50 Lithuania	118 Kazakhstan	186 Bahamas
51 Ivory Coast	119 Mauritius	187= Belize
52 Japan	120 Malta	187= Aruba
53 Angola	121 Sierra Leone	189 Seychelles
54 Finland	122 Turkmenistan	190 Nicaragua
55 Ghana	123 Grenada	191 Central African Rep.
55 Cameroon	124 Luxembourg	192 US Virgin Islands
57 Bolivia	125 Hong Kong	193= Equatorial Guinea
58 Cyprus	126 Tanzania	193= Djibouti
59 Congo DR (Zaire)	127 Myanmar	195 Turks and Caicos
60 China PR	128= Liechtenstein	196 Islands
61 Latvia	128= Sudan	196 Sao Tome e
62 Ecuador	130 Swaziland	Principe
63 Thailand	131 Burundi	197 Somalia
64 FYR Macedonia	132 Fiji	198= Mongolia
65 Georgia	133 Bahrain	198= American Samoa
66 UAE	134 Madagascar	200 Guam
67 Kuwait	135 Bangladesh	201= Montserrat
68 Zimbabwe	136 Tahiti	201= Anguilla

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

FRANZ IS SORRY



Franz Beckenbauer: I'm sorry.

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer apologised to Norwegians last week, on the eve of a Champions League match against Rosenborg Trondheim, for once saying Rosenborg were not good enough to play Europe's elite.

He even tipped Rosenborg to win Champions League Group C, over last year's finalists Bayern, Real Madrid and Dinamo Kiev.

The German first division leaders have been hard hit by injuries including one to influential playmaker Lothar Matthaus.

"Please say sorry to the Norwegian people for me,"

Beckenbauer told the daily Aftenposten when asked about a remark three years ago that Rosenborg had no place in a competition meant for Europe's top clubs.

(At that time) "Rosenborg were newcomers and we sat and joked about the team. Now it's an established and good team," said Beckenbauer, who captained Germany to victory in the 1974 World Cup which he won again as coach in 1990.

Rosenborg won the Norwegian top division and domestic cup last month and have had Champions League victories since Beckenbauer's sleight against teams including AC Milan, Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund.

BRAZIL COACH DIES

Flavio Costa, Brazil's coach when they suffered one of their most humiliating defeats, has died, a hospital spokesman said.

Costa, who was 93, won numerous titles as coach of Rio de Janeiro club Vasco da Gama but was better known for a match he lost.

Costa was in charge of the Brazil team beaten 2-1 by Uruguay in the deciding match of the 1950 World Cup in Brazil.

Jubilant Brazilians believed a win for their side to be a foregone conclusion and more than 200,000 fans gathered at the Maracana stadium to celebrate.

But, despite taking an early second-half lead, Brazil were beaten,

leaving the soccer-mad nation in the depths of despair.

The game is still mentioned before present day meetings of the two



\$15 MILLION LOSS

English premier league club Leicester City announced last week it had made a 6.2 million pounds (\$15 million) loss in 1998/99 despite a strong increase in revenue after a Wembley Cup final appearance.

Turnover rose 24 percent to 23.8

million pounds in the year to July 31, boosted by Leicester's progress to the League Cup final where they were beaten 1-0 by Tottenham.

However, player and football management costs rose 49 percent to 12.5 million pounds.



OUT TILL NEXT YEAR

Real Madrid's Bodo Illgner is expected to be out of action until at least the end of the year, club medical officials said last week.

The German former international goalkeeper injured his right knee during a Champions League clash against Porto last month.

The club said that they hope to have Illgner fit to play in the inaugu-

ral world club championship in Brazil in January.

Injury-prone Illgner also missed several games at the start of the Spanish season with a groin strain.

The news means further defensive woes for Real Madrid, for whom Argentine international Albano Bizarri has been a less than convincing replacement between the posts.



EUROPEAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Raul Gonzalez: Real Madrid's young star.



Jardel: The Brazilian is a constant menace in the Portuguese league.

Organisers of the European Footballer of the Year have it is likely the winner will be announced on December 20.

Manchester United's David Beckham and Barcelona's Rivaldo have emerged as clear favourites for the honour.

The 50 contenders:

Fabien Barthez (Monaco) France
Mario Basler (Bayern Munich) Germany
Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina) Argentina
David Beckham (Manchester United) England
Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal) Netherlands
Oliver Bierhoff (AC Milan) Germany
Laurent Blanc (Olympique Marseille, Inter Milan) France
Gianluigi Buffon (Parma) Italy
Andrei Shevchenko (Dynamo Kiev, AC Milan) Ukraine
Alexander Shovkovski (Dynamo Kiev) Ukraine
Claudio Lopez (Valencia) Argentina
Andy Cole (Manchester United) England
Hernan Crespo (Parma) Argentina
Edgar Davids (Juventus) Netherlands
Frank de Boer (Ajax Amsterdam, Barcelona) Netherlands
Marcel Desailly (Chelsea) France
Stefan Effenberg (Bayern Munich) Germany
Elber (Bayern Munich) Brazil
Luis Figo (Barcelona) Portugal
Ryan Giggs (Manchester United) Wales
David Ginola (Tottenham Hotspur) France
Josep Guardiola (Barcelona) Spain

Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus) Italy
Jardel (Porto) Brazil
Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal) Nigeria

Roy Keane (Manchester United) Ireland
Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona) Netherlands

Paolo Maldini (AC Milan) Italy
Lothar Matthaeus (Bayern Munich) Germany

Sinisa Mihajlovic (Lazio) Yugoslavia
Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid) Spain

Hidetoshi Nakata (Perugia) Japan
Pavel Nedved (Lazio) Czech Republic

Emmanuel Petit (Arsenal) France
Gustavo Poyet (Chelsea) Uruguay

Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid) Spain

Rivaldo (Barcelona) Brazil

Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid) Brazil

Ronaldo (Inter Milan) Brazil

Marcelo Salas (Lazio) Chile

Peter Schmeichel (Manchester United, Sporting Lisbon) Denmark

Jaap Stam (Manchester United) Netherlands

Lilain Thuram (Parma) France

Juan Sebastian Veron (Parma, Lazio) Argentina

Christian Vieri (Lazio, Inter Milan) Italy

Sylvain Wiltord (Girondins Bordeaux) France

Dwight Yorke (Manchester United) Trinidad and Tobago

Zlatko Zahovic (Porto, Olympiakos) Slovenia

Zinedine Zidane (Juventus) France

Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea) Italy



David Beckham (L): Clear favourite with Gabriel Batistuta (R): Also in the running.



Sylvain Wiltord of Bordeaux.

BAYERN LOSE MUNICH DERBY

League leaders Bayern Munich lost their first Munich derby for 22 years on the weekend when a spectacular late goal from Thomas Riedl clinched TSV 1860 Munich a 1-0 victory.

Riedl scored in the 85th minute with a 25-metre shot to give fifth-placed TSV a well-deserved victory in front of 69,000 fans in Munich's Olympic Stadium.

But Bayern stayed top of the Bundesliga despite the result, their third defeat in 13 matches this season.

The Bavarians are two points ahead of Bayer Leverkusen who moved into

second after beating Arminia Bielefeld 2-1 away, their first win after five consecutive draws.

Hertha Berlin followed up their 1-1 draw against Barcelona in the Champion's League on Wednesday with a 3-2 victory at VfL Wolfsburg. The Berlin side had to battle back from behind.

The defeat by TSV 1860 was Bayern's first loss in five matches.

"Every defeat is disappoint-

ing," Bayern trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld said. "We were in control for 25 minutes but let ourselves get frustrated by shots hitting the crossbar.

"We didn't have any fight at the end. We have to analyse the mistakes."

TSV 1860 Munich coach Werner Lorant was banned from the touchline by the league for insulting an assistant referee in a match last month. He watched from the stands.

"We finally won the derby — and quite deservedly," said Lorant. "The team played very well."

TSV 1860 Munich had three good chances to go ahead in the middle of the first half and kept the pressure on throughout the second half before Riedl scored the winner.

Paul Agostino's header hit the post in the 26th minute, Gerald Vanenburg's free kick was saved by Germany 'keeper Oliver Kahn in the 27th minute and Agostino hit the crossbar again with a shot from 10 metres.

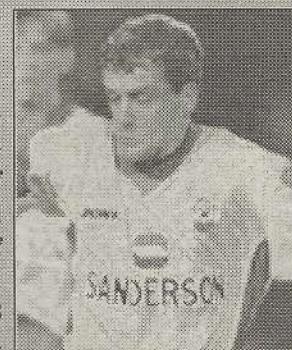


Hughes re-signs

Mark Hughes, caretaker manager of Wales since June, has agreed to take over the job on a permanent basis, BBC Radio Wales reported last week.

The BBC said the 4-1/2 year contract would be ratified at a meeting of the Football Association of Wales next month.

Hughes has 18 months of his contract as striker with English premier league Southampton still to run during which time he will be Wales manager on a part-time basis.



Mark Hughes: Four and a half year contract.



AMERICAN SOCCER STILL STRUGGLING

Professional league soccer is again in the doldrums in the United States with attendances falling and the game failing to make any significant impact despite optimism surrounding the U.S. national team.

Major League Soccer (MLS), the top professional U.S. league, struggled through its fourth season with attendances declining to average around the 14,000-mark despite numerous double-headers featuring international or Women's World Cup games as a lure.

"We are not satisfied," said Don Garber, the MLS commissioner.

"We simply have not captured enough of the millions of 'soccer-involved' people in this country."

Corporate sponsors are not flocking to MLS either, although the league did re-sign three key backers — Budweiser, Pepsi and Honda — to agreements of \$2.5 million a year over the next four years.

In some venues, especially New York, attendance levels appeared to be grossly inflated.

MLS put the finishing touches on an all-but-forgotten fourth season last week as D.C. United captured its third league title with a 2-0 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy before a crowd of 44,910 at Foxboro Stadium.

A dour final aside, league officials took solace in the fact that the match was a near-sellout on a day featuring a full slate of National Football League games.

A change in commissioners and a host of rules and structural changes were made in hopes of resuscitating the 12-team league.

Garber, formerly the senior vice president of the NFL's international division, was named MLS commissioner in August following the sacking of Doug Logan, the commissioner since the league's inception.

"I believe in this game and the potential that it has to become an important part of the American professional sports scene," Garber added. "No sport is better positioned to capitalise on a 'new America'."

Still, the level of play suffered this year as did MLS's dismal television ratings.

Constricted by a salary cap of \$1.5 million per team, clubs are hard-pressed to field the best-possible teams.

The league's entire budget would pale in comparison to the salaries of a top-notch NBA basketball attacking trio or half of the New York Yankees' infield.

"This country is going through a demographic and technological revolution that is unrivaled in our nation's history," says Garber, adding that ethnic diversity and gender equity "are changing the traditional rules by which we live, purchase products and consume sports and entertainment."

MLS is pushing on with its strategy of mixing in big-name international players, most recently signing German international Lothar Matthaus, who will join New York/New Jersey. Italian interna-



The United States national team in happier times.

tional Giuseppe Bergomi is rumoured to be an MLS target.

On the rules front, Garber said the league would do away with the tie-breaking shootouts it has employed since 1996 and would turn to the conventional international point system awarding three points for a victory and one point for a draw following two five-minute golden-goal overtimes.

"We believe that one of our core strengths is that soccer is the most popular sport in the world," said Garber. "By not playing in accordance with international rules, we're not fully capitalising on that core equity."

Referees will also keep time on the field and add injury time accordingly. The league had previously used a stadium clock that counted down.

The 2000 campaign will be shortened by nearly five weeks and the two, six-team conferences will

be divided into three, four-team conferences. The top eight teams qualify for tournament play. Teams continue to play a 32-match schedule.

Large U.S. crowds for soccer are more commonplace now, but only when associated with big events.

The 1994 World Cup Finals drew the largest crowds in World Cup history and the healthy attendance at this summer's Women's World Cup — which was won by the United States — surprised everyone, including organisers who at first planned to hold games at high schools and college grounds instead of 60,000-seat venues.

Still, there was no carryover to the MLS, which received only passing interest by the average American fan in a country where tens of millions play the sport.

Bill Hurley's Australian SPORTSBOOK

Phone: (02) 9897 0088 (see page 3 for more details)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United	\$2.00
Arsenal	\$3.50
Chelsea	\$7.00
Leeds	\$7.00
Liverpool	\$11.00
Newcastle	\$501.00
Aston Villa	\$501.00
West Ham	\$126.00
Sunderland	\$67.00
Middlesbrough	\$331.00

TO WIN EURO 2000

Holland	\$4.75
Italy	\$6.00
France	\$7.50
Spain	\$8.00
Germany	\$10.00
Czech Republic	\$17.00
Yugoslavia	\$21.00
Norway	\$26.00
Portugal	\$26.00
England	\$11.00

UEFA CUP

Juventus	\$6.00
Arsenal	\$8.00
Roma	\$9.00
Leeds	\$13.00
Ajax	\$15.00
Dep La Coruna	\$17.00
Borussia Dortmund	\$17.00
Bayer Leverkusen	\$21.00
Monaco	\$21.00
Celta Vigo	\$21.00

ITALIAN SERIE A

Lazio	\$2.40
Inter Milan	\$4.30
Juventus	\$4.30
AC Milan	\$6.50
Roma	\$8.50
Parma	\$13.00
Fiorentina	\$34.00
Udinese	\$101.00
Bologna	\$101.00
Torino	\$201.00
Bari	\$301.00
Perugia	\$401.00
Reggina	\$501.00
Cagliari	\$661.00
Lecce	\$661.00
Verona	\$1001.00
Venezia	\$1001.00
Piacenza	\$1001.00

SPANISH LEAGUE

Barcelona	\$1.45
Real Madrid	\$4.50
Dep La Coruna	\$5.50
Celta Vigo	\$8.00
Real Zaragoza	\$26.00
Valencia	\$21.00
Real Mallorca	\$41.00
Atletico Madrid	\$67.00
Vallecano	\$51.00
Athletic Bilbao	\$51.00
Espanyol	\$81.00
Real Betis	\$101.00
Racing Santander	\$151.00
Real Oviedo	\$251.00
Valladolid	\$251.00
Alaves	\$501.00
Real Sociedad	\$501.00
Seville	\$501.00

"No sport is better positioned to capitalise on a 'new America'."

WORLD



Ronaldo: Another operation on the cards?



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INJURED AGAIN

Ronaldo will probably be out of action for three months after injuring his knee in a league match on November 21, Inter Milan said.

"We are awaiting the results of a further ultra-sound test which will determine how long he will be out for," Inter spokesman Giuseppe Sapienza said.

"His injury will take a minimum of one month to heal and further physiotherapy could mean that he is out for the next three months," Sapienza added.

Ronaldo caught his foot in a divot in the rain-soaked San Siro pitch in the 58th minute of Inter's 6-0 win over Lecce and limped off. Minutes earlier he had scored his side's fifth goal from the penalty spot.

Initial ultra-sound tests revealed the

Brazilian player had twisted his right knee and had slightly torn the tendons in his leg and also in his knee.

Ronaldo has been hampered by knee injuries over the past two seasons and has never recaptured the breathtaking form he showed during his first season in Italy between 1997-98.

The Brazilian played only 11 full matches for Inter last season and has appeared for a full 90 minutes in only two of the club's 10 games this term.

He already had an operation on his right knee in 1996 when playing for PSV Eindhoven. Inter Milan have denied Italian press reports that he could face another operation.

BOSNICH MEETS BATISTUTA



Fiorentina's Argentine Gabriel Batistuta (L) smiles as Mark Bosnich of Manchester United looks dejected at the end of their Champions League group B soccer match at Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence on November 23. Fiorentina won 2-0 with Batistuta getting on the scoresheet.

For full results and tables see page 24.

WORLD

KEANE TO STAY
AT MAN UTD

Roy Keane: In action recently against Derby. He is likely to stay with the Red Devils.

Roy Keane hinted last week he would sign a new long-term contract with European champions Manchester United despite being free to accept offers from abroad next northern summer.

United skipper Keane told Greater Manchester Radio: "There's a meeting scheduled next week between the club and my solicitor, so hopefully I will have some positive news then.

"The talks are still at a delicate

stage but, fingers crossed, I will have something positive to say."

Italian Serie A sides Lazio and Juventus as well as Spain's Real Madrid were all rumoured to be interested in signing the Ireland midfielder whose current deal runs out in June.

Keane made a statement earlier this season claiming he would wait until next summer before deciding on his future.

However, after pressure from

United to begin negotiations on a new contract, Keane now seems ready to re-sign for the Old Trafford team.

United are desperate to keep Keane and if a deal is not reached he could walk away from Old Trafford next summer without the club receiving a fee.

At their annual meeting last week, United chairman Sir Roland Smith claimed the club would do everything in its power to hold on to their captain.

Israeli's cleared in sex scandal

The Israel Football Association (IFA) has found no evidence that national team members cavorted with call girls on the eve of last month's humiliating 5-0 Euro 2000 play-off defeat by Denmark.

"The failure against Denmark is sad, but any attempt to link the disappointment of a poor sporting performance with unsporting and immoral behaviour is without foundation, IFA chief Gavri Levy said in a statement.

"The findings indicate that there is no evidence to the claims that national team players partied with call girls

and used drugs on the eve of the match with Denmark.

"No breaches of discipline by any member of the squad necessitating action were uncovered."

An Israeli newspaper sparked a national furore and the subsequent investigation by the national governing body with allegations that players had partied with call girls at the squad's hotel ahead of the home leg.

But Israel's Sports Minister Matan Vilnai questioned the validity of the interim findings of the inquiry conducted by two private investigation firms.

He said the investigation should have been carried out by an independent body.

"Gone are the days in Israel when (public) institutions investigate themselves and then publish their conclusions and put an end to the matter," he said.

"I will have to wait to hear the final report and then I'll draw my conclusions. I am very disturbed by the fact that the players refused to take a lie detector test — it raises doubts."

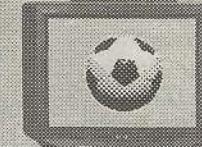
Israel lost the return leg in Copenhagen 3-0 and went out 8-0 on aggregate.

TV GUIDE

* All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time

Tuesday November 30

Italian Serie A
Optus Vision (ESPN)
9pm - 11pm



French Premier League
Montpellier v PSG
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
5pm - 7pm

Toyota Cup
Manchester Utd v
Palmeiras (LIVE)
One hour delay full replay
Fox Sports
9pm - 11.30pm

Soccer Scene (Replay)
Fox Sports
12pm - 1pm

National Soccer League
South Melbourne v
Parramatta
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Toyota Cup
Manchester Utd v
Palmeiras
One hour delay full replay
SBS TV
10pm - 12pm

Scottish Premier League
Fox Sports
1pm - 3pm
UEFA Champions League
Magazine
SBS TV
3.30pm - 4.30pm

English First Division
Nottingham Forest v
Ipswich (LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
12am - 2am
(Monday morning)



Wednesday December 1

Toyota Cup
Manchester Utd v
Palmeiras (Replay)
Fox Sports
12pm - 2.30pm

World Soccer
FC Porto v Benfica
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
(Replay)
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Dutch Football (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
12.25am - 2.30am
(Monday morning)

European Soccer Show
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
10pm - 11pm

National Soccer League
Newcastle v Brisbane
(LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

English Premier League
Liverpool v Sheff Wed
(LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
2am - 5.30am
(Monday morning)

Thursday December 2

Soccer Central
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)

9pm - 10pm

English Premier League
Leicester v Arsenal (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
10.30pm - 12.30am

Monday December 6

English Premier League
Liverpool v Sheff Wed
(Replay)
Fox Sports
12pm - 2pm

Friday December 3

English Premier League
Fox Sports

12pm - 2pm

English Premier League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports 2
2am - 4am
(Sunday morning)

English First Division
Wolverton v Manchester
City
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
1.30pm - 3.30pm

German Bundesliga
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
2.30pm - 4.30pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

English Premier League
Highlights
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

National Soccer League
Auckland v Gippsland
(LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
5.30pm - 7.30pm

National Soccer League
Northern Spirit v Marconi
(LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

English Premier League
SBS TV
7.30pm - 8.30pm

Sunday December 5

Italian Serie A (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)

6.25am - 8.30am

German Bundesliga
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
10am - 12pm

Tuesday December 7

English Premier League
Tottenham v West Ham
(LIVE)
Fox Sports
6.30am - 9.30am

Italian Serie A
SBS TV
10.30am - 11.30am

On The Ball
SBS TV
11.30am - 12.30pm

English Premier League
Tottenham v West Ham
(Replay)
Fox Sports
4.30pm - 6.30pm

Saturday December 4

English First Division
Wolverhampton v

Manchester City
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)

10am - 12pm

English Premier League
Replays overnight games
Fox Sports 2
12pm - 4pm

29

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

UEFA CUP THIRD ROUND 1ST LEG

Parma (Italy) 2 Sturm Graz (Austria) 1, Olympique Lyon (France) 3 Werder Bremen (Germany) 0, Deportiva Coruna (Spain) 4 Panathinaikos (Greece) 2, Bologna (Italy) 1 Galatasaray (Turkey) 1, Udinese (Italy) 0 Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 1, RC Lens (France) 1, Kaiserslautern (Germany) 2, Spartak Moscow (Russia) v Leeds United (England) postponed, Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0 Real Mallorca (Spain) 1, Rangers (Scotland) 2 Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 0, AS Roma (Italy) 1 Newcastle United (England) 0, AEK Athens (Greece) 2 Monaco (France) 2, Celta Vigo (Spain) 7 Benfica (Portugal) 0, Olympiakos Piraeus (Greece) 1 Juventus (Italy) 3, VfL Wolfsburg (Germany) 2 Atletico Madrid (Spain) 3, Arsenal (England) 3 Nantes (France) 0, Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) 4 Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 1.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 2 Derby County 1, Chelsea 1 Bradford City 0, Leeds United 1 Southampton 0, Newcastle United 2 Tottenham Hotspur 1, Coventry City 0 Leicester City 1, Everton 0 Aston Villa 0, Middlesbrough 0, Wimbledon 0, Watford 2 Sunderland 3, West Ham United 1 Liverpool 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Leeds United	16	11	2	3	29	19	35
2. Manchester United	15	10	3	2	35	20	33
3. Arsenal	16	10	2	4	28	16	32
4. Sunderland	16	9	4	3	27	16	31
5. Leicester City	16	9	2	5	26	20	29
6. Liverpool	16	8	3	5	20	13	27
7. Tottenham Hotspur	15	8	2	5	25	20	26
8. Chelsea	14	7	3	4	20	11	24
9. West Ham United	15	7	3	5	17	14	24
10. Middlesbrough	16	7	2	7	20	23	23
11. Everton	16	5	6	5	24	22	21
12. Coventry City	16	5	5	6	23	18	20
13. Aston Villa	16	5	4	7	14	18	19
14. Wimbledon	16	3	8	5	22	29	17
15. Southampton	15	4	4	7	20	25	16
16. Newcastle United	16	4	4	8	27	30	16
17. Bradford City	15	3	3	9	12	24	12
18. Derby County	16	3	3	10	15	28	12
19. Watford	16	3	2	11	13	28	11
20. Sheffield Wednesday	15	1	3	11	13	36	6

LEADING SCORERS

14 - Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
12 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Andy Cole (Manchester United)
10 - Michael Bridges (Leeds United)
9 - Dion Dublin (Aston Villa)
8 - Dwight Yorke (Manchester United), Steffen Iversen (Tottenham Hotspur), Tony Cottee (Leicester City), Kevin Campbell (Everton)
7 - Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City), Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal), Marians Pahars (Southampton), John Hartson (Wimbledon), Robbie Keane (Coventry City)
6 - Brian Deane (Middlesbrough), Rory Delap (Derby County), Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United)
5 - Davor Suker (Arsenal), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Gary McAllister (Coventry City), Titi Camara (Liverpool), Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough), Emile Heskey (Leicester City).

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

Grimsby 2 Norwich 1, Birmingham 1 Swindon 1, Blackburn 2 Stockport 0, Charlton 2 Port Vale 2, Crystal Palace 2 Nottingham Forest 0, Ipswich 2, Crewe 1, Manchester City 0 Huddersfield 1, Portsmouth 0 Bolton 0, Queens Park Rangers 2, Barnsley 2, Tranmere 1 Wolverhampton 0, West Bromwich 2 Sheffield United 2, Walsall 1 Fulham 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester City	20	13	3	4	30	13	42
2. Huddersfield	21	12	4	5	38	22	40
3. Charlton	19	12	3	4	36	21	39
4. Ipswich	20	10	5	5	34	23	35
5. Barnsley	20	11	2	7	38	32	35
6. Fulham	20	8	8	4	24	18	32
7. Birmingham	20	8	7	5	32	23	31
8. Bolton	20	8	7	5	29	20	31
9. Queens Park Rangers	20	7	8	5	29	26	29
10. Stockport	20	7	7	6	23	28	28
11. Wolverhampton	19	6	8	5	19	18	26
12. Tranmere	21	7	5	9	28	30	26
13. West Bromwich	19	5	10	4	20	19	25
14. Norwich	20	6	7	7	17	18	25
15. Grimsby	20	7	4	9	21	32	25
16. Crystal Palace	20	6	6	8	28	32	24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	13	11	1	1	37	12	34
2. Celtic	14	10	0	4	38	14	30
3. Dundee United	15	8	3	4	22	19	27
4. Motherwell	15	7	5	3	25	23	26
5. Hibernian	16	5	5	6	25	27	20
6. Dundee	15	6	0	9	20	26	18
7. Hearts	14	4	5	5	22	21	17
8. St Johnstone	16	4	4	8	15	21	16
9. Kilmarnock	15	2	6	7	15	23	12
10. Aberdeen	15	1	3	11	14	47	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
13 - Mark Viduka (Celtic)	13	2	1	0	11	32	24

LEADING SCORERS

13 - Mark Viduka (Celtic)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
17. Blackburn	18	5	8	5	21	18	23
18. Nottingham Forest	20	5	6	9	23	26	21
19. Port Vale	21	5	6	10	26	31	21
20. Portsmouth	21	5	6	10	25	35	21
21. Sheffield United	20	4	6	10	23	35	18
22. Walsall	21	4	6	11	18	33	18
23. Crewe	19	4	5	10	18	29	17
24. Swindon	21	3	7	11	15	33	16

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 2 Cambridge 1, Bournemouth 1 Millwall 2, Bristol Rovers 3 Luton 0, Bury 1 Preston 3, Cardiff 1 Gillingham 2, Chesterfield 0 Oxford 0, Notts County 4 Bristol City 4, Oldham 0 Wrexham 0, Reading 1 Scunthorpe 1, Stoke 1 Colchester 1, Wigan 1 Burnley 1, Wycombe 2 Brentford 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Wigan	19	10	9	0	38	18	39
2 Preston	19	11	6	2	31	18	39
3 Gillingham	19	10	5	4	37	23	35
4 Bristol Rovers	18	10	5	3	22	11	35
5 Burnley	19	9	7	3	25	12	34
6 Notts County	19	10	4	5	28	20	34
7 Stoke	19	9	6	4	29	17	33
8 Millwall	19	9	6	4	30	21	33
9 Brentford	19	9	6	4	31	23	33
10 Luton	19	8	3	8	23	25	27
11 Bournemouth	19	7	4	8	26	28	25
12 Wycombe	19	6	7	6	24	26	25
13 Bury	19	5	9	5	29	26	24
14 Oldham	19	5	9	20	24	20	20
15 Oxford	19	5	9	18	23	20	15
16 Scunthorpe	19	5	9	20	31	20	15
17 Cardiff	19	4	78	8	22	26	19
18 Wrexham	19	4	7	8	18	31	19
19 Bristol City	18	3	9	6	21	26	18
20 Reading	18	4	5	9	22	34	17
21 Cambridge	19	3	6	10	28	34	15
22 Blackpool	19	3	6	10	20		

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

LEADING SCORERS

8 - Marco Bode (Werder Bremen).
 7 - Adel Sellimi (SC Freiburg), Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Elber (Bayern Munich), Jonathan Akpoborie (VfL Wolfsburg)
 6 - Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen), Ebbe Sand (Schalke 04), Joerg Butt (Hamburg SV)
 5 - Roy Praeger (Hamburg SV), Martin Max (1860 Munich), Bachirou Salou (Eintracht Frankfurt)

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Feyenoord 1 PSV Eindhoven 0, Utrecht 2 Den Bosch 1, Graafschap Doetinchem 2 Vitesse Arnhem 2, RKC Waalwijk 2 Sparta Rotterdam 1, AZ Alkmaar 1 Ajax Amsterdam 2, Fortuna Sittard 2 NEC Nijmegen 2, Twente Enschede 4 Willem II Tilburg 0, Heerenveen 4 Cambuur Leeuwarden 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Ajax Amsterdam	14	11	2	1	44	18	35
2. PSV Eindhoven	13	10	1	2	47	11	31
3. Heerenveen	14	9	1	4	27	16	28
4. Roda JC Kerkrade	13	8	2	3	23	15	26
5. Willem II Tilburg	13	8	2	3	25	25	26
6. RKC Waalwijk	14	8	2	4	26	24	26
7. Vitesse Arnhem	13	7	4	2	26	18	25
8. Twente Enschede	14	6	6	2	25	16	24
9. Feyenoord	13	6	5	2	25	14	23
10. AZ Alkmaar	14	7	1	6	26	25	22
11. Utrecht	14	7	0	7	18	22	21
12. Sparta Rotterdam	14	4	0	10	21	33	12
13. MVV Maastricht	13	2	3	8	20	35	9
14. Graafschap	14	1	6	7	12	20	9
15. Fortuna Sittard	14	2	3	9	16	26	9
16. NEC Nijmegen	14	2	2	10	18	34	8
17. Cambuur L.	14	1	3	10	11	31	6
18. Den Bosch	14	1	3	10	13	40	6

LEADING SCORERS

19 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven)
 13 - Pierre van Hooijdonk (Vitesse Arnhem)
 9 - Richard Knopper (Ajax Amsterdam) Brian Laudrup (Ajax)
 8 - Barry van Galen (AZ Alkmaar) Luc Nilis (PSV)
 Rick Hoogendorp (RKC Waalwijk) Bob Peeters (Roda JC Kerkrade) Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente Enschede) Mariano Bombarda (Willem II Tilburg)
 7 - Nikos Machlas (Ajax)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Sedan 0 Nantes 0, Racing Lens 3 Girdondins Bordeaux 3, Bastia 3 Olympique Lyon 0, Nancy 2 Olympique Marseille 2, Montpellier 0 Paris St Germain 1, St Etienne 0 Racing Strasbourg 1, Stade Rennes 1 AJ Auxerre 0, Troyes 2 Metz 2, Le Havre 1 Monaco 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Monaco	16	10	3	3	36	16	33
2. Olympique Lyon	17	9	4	4	20	14	31
3. Paris St Germain	17	9	3	5	26	20	30
4. AJ Auxerre	16	9	2	5	23	19	29
5. Stade Rennes	17	7	5	5	25	22	26
6. Girondins Bordeaux	17	6	6	5	28	27	24
7. Sedan	17	7	3	7	24	27	24
8. Olympique Marseille	17	5	8	4	23	18	23
9. St Etienne	17	6	5	6	24	26	23
10. Metz	17	4	10	3	20	15	22
11. Bastia	17	5	7	5	23	20	22
12. Nantes	17	6	2	9	19	21	20
13. Racing Lens	17	5	5	7	14	21	20
14. Troyes	17	6	2	9	17	27	20
15. Le Havre	17	5	4	8	19	28	19
16. Racing Strasbourg	17	5	4	8	16	26	19
17. Nancy	17	4	5	8	24	26	17
18. Montpellier	17	3	4	10	19	28	13

LEADING SCORERS

12 - Sonny Anderson (Olympique Lyon), Marco Simone (Monaco)
 10 - David Trezeguet (Monaco)
 9 - Lilian Laslandes (Girondins Bordeaux), Stephane Guivarc'h (AJ Auxerre)
 8 - Sylvain Wiltord (Bordeaux), Alex (St Etienne), Mikael Madar (Paris St Germain), Shabani Nonda (Stade Rennes), Tony Cascarino (Nancy)
 7 - Antoine Sibierski (Nantes)

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Harelbeke 1 Ghent 2, Eendracht Aalst 1 Standard Liege 2, Germinal Beerschot 3 Charleroi 1, Anderlecht 1 Genk 3, Sint-Truiden 0 Beveren 2, Mechelen 2 Westerlo 2, Verbroedering Geel 0 Lommel 0, Lokeren 3 Excelsior Mouscron 2, Club

Bruges 1 Lierse 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Anderlecht	14	11	2	1	42	19	35
2. Genk	15	9	5	1	39	17	32
3. Lierse	15	9	3	3	29	15	30
4. Club Bruges	14	9	1	4	33	14	28
5. Ghent	15	9	0	6	40	29	27
6. Germinal Beerschot	15	8	2	5	27	23	26
7. Westerlo	14	6	4	4	31	28	22
8. Standard Liege	15	7	1	7	24	28	22
9. Excelsior Mouscron	15	6	3	6	28	23	21
10. Aalst	15	6	2	7	29	25	20
11. Mechelen	15	6	2	7	22	34	20
12. Charleroi	15	4	5	6	20	25	17
13. Lokeren	15	4	5	6	25	31	17
14. Harelbeke	15	3	4	8	20	25	13
15. Verbroedering Geel	15	1	8	6	9	26	11
16. Lommel	15	1	7	7	14	30	10
17. Sint-Truiden	15	2	3	10	16	38	9
18. Beveren	14	1	5	8	15	32	8

LEADING SCORERS

16 - Toni Brogno (Westerlo)
 14 - Ole Martin Aarst (Ghent)

10 - Tomasz Radzinski (Anderlecht), Jan Koller (Anderlecht)

9 - Branko Strupar (Genk), Par Zetterberg (Anderlecht)

8 - Andrei Demkine (Germinal Beerschot)

7 - Dante Brogno (Charleroi), Steve Cooremans (Aalst)

Marc Degryse (Germinal Beerschot), Jochen Janssen (Club Bruges), David Paas (Harelbeke), Gunther Schepens (Ghent), Sven Vermaut (Club Bruges)

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

AEK Athens 1 OFI Heraklion 2, Aris Salonica 0 PAOK Salonica 0, Kalamata 1 Panionios Athens 3, Paniliakos Pyrgos 4 Iraklis Salonica 3, Apollon Athens 0 Proodeftiki Piraeus 2, Kavala 0 Panachaiki Patras 0, Trikala 2 Xanthi 1.

PORTUGUESE PREMIER LEAGUE

Vitoria Setubal 1 Alverca 0, Estrela Amadora 0 Gil

Vicente 1, Santa Clara 1 Braga 2, Vitoria Guimaraes 2 Rio Ave 1, Salgueiros 0 Porto 4, Sporting Lisbon 2

Uniao Leiria 0, Maritimo 0 Belenenses 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	12	7	4	1	23	7	25
2. Sporting Lisbon	12	7	3	2	18	10	24
3. Benfica	11	7	2	2	17	8	23
4. Gil Vicente	12	7	2	3	18	8	23
5. Maritimo	12	6	3	3	16	9	21
6. Boavista	11	6	3	2	10	7	21
7. Vitoria Guimaraes	12	6	3	3	20	14	21
8. Alverca	12	5	2	5	13	14	17
9. Belenenses	12	4	4	4	14	12	16
10. Estrela Amadora	12	3	6	3	12	13	15
11. Santa Clara	12	3	4	5	15	17	13
12. Campomaiorense	11	4	1	6	10	16	13
13. Rio Ave	12	2	5	5	12	19	11
14. Braga	12	3	1	8	14	21	10
15. Uniao Leiria	12	2	4	6	9	14	10
16. Salgueiros	12	3	1	8	9	19	10
17. Vitoria Setubal	12	2	3	7	11	19	9
18. Farense	11	1	5	5	7	20	8

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

Sutjeska Niksic

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Total

Home

Away

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
BRISBANE STRIKERS	9	6	3	0	17	7	21	5	3	2	0	13	6	4	3	1	0	4	1
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	9	5	2	2	14	8	17	4	1	2	1	6	6	5	4	0	1	8	2
MARCONI STALLIONS	9	5	2	2	14	13	17	4	3	0	1	4	4	5	2	2	1	10	9
PERTH GLORY	9	4	3	2	20	12	15	5	2	2	1	14	8	4	2	1	1	6	4
CARLTON	9	4	3	2	16	10	15	4	2	1	1	6	5	5	2	2	1	10	5
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	9	4	3	2	17	14	15	4	3	0	1	7	5	5	1	3	1	10	9
PARRAMATTA POWER	9	3	3	3	15	14	12	6	2	3	1	10	8	3	1	0	2	5	6
SYDNEY UNITED	9	3	3	4	6	11	12	5	2	1	2	4	5	4	0	2	2	2	6
CANBERRA COSMOS	9	3	2	4	13	11	11	6	2	1	3	8	5	3	1	1	1	5	6
SOUTH MELBOURNE	9	3	2	4	13	13	11	4	3	1	0	10	2	5	0	1	4	3	11
AUCKLAND KINGZ	9	3	2	4	15	19	11	4	1	1	2	6	10	5	2	1	2	9	9
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	9	2	4	3	12	14	10	4	0	3	1	6	7	5	2	1	2	6	7
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	9	2	3	4	6	10	9	5	2	1	2	4	3	4	0	2	2	2	7
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	9	3	0	6	9	18	9	5	3	0	2	6	5	4	0	0	4	3	13
ADELAIDE FORCE	9	1	4	4	7	12	7	4	1	2	1	5	5	5	0	2	3	2	7
NORTHERN SPIRIT	9	2	1	6	7	15	7	3	1	0	2	3	5	6	1	1	4	4	10

Parramatta Power

(Berry 62)

Sydney United

(Pondeljak 68)

Venue: Parramatta Stadium Crowd: 6,015 Referee: E Lennie

Cautions:

Red Card: Savocca (SU) 76.

Teams: **Parramatta Power**: Crews, Elrich, Vrkic (Vrkic 74), Blagojevic, Santalab, Bennett, Berry, Ardone (Burns 55), Gibson, Griffiths (Townsend 77), Angelucci.

Sydney United: Hughes, Rastall, Kupresak, Bosnar, Savocca, Pondeljak, Arrarte, Genc (Younis 61), J. Moric: Bosevski (Jermen 30), Zec (A. Moric 78).

Brisbane Strikers

(Fosters 44, 52, 64, Pilic 45, 67)

South Melbourne

(Curcija 57)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium Crowd: 4,943 Referee: S Micallef

Cautions: Meredith (BS) 52, Udvaracz (SM) 45, Coveny (SM) 72, Lozanovski (SM), 77, Iosifidis 79.

Teams: **Brisbane Strikers**: Gwynne, Bell, Ditton, Pilic, Foster, Dwyer (Di Losa 78), McLaren, Grierson, Meredith (Steffanutto 72), Baldwin (Smeltz 81).

South Melbourne: Udvaracz, Iosifidis, De Amicis (Tsekinis 65), Orlic, Blatis, Clarkson (Coveny 45), Panopoulos, Curcija, Anastasiadis (Magnacca 75), Lozanovski, Liparoti.

Marconi Stallions

(Trajanovski 12p)

Wollongong Wolves

Venue: Marconi Stadium Crowd: 5,774 Referee: B Hugo.

Red Card: Care (MS) 58.

Teams: **Marconi Stallions**: Turnbull, Invincible, Smith, Farah, Gibson, Renaud, Care, Maloney, Zoric, Trajanovski (Junior 81), Marchesini (Awaritefe 46).

Wollongong Wolves: Pogliacomi: Souris (Surjan 69), Stanton, D. Cervinski: Horsley, Reid (Spencer 81), Huxley, Harlock, Young, Masi (Petrovski 74), Chipperfield.

Canberra Cosmos

(Polak 24)

Newcastle Breakers

(Harper 46, Buonavoglia 61)

Venue: Bruce Stadium Crowd: 2,889 Referee: M Breeze

Cautions: Roberts (NB) 18, De Jesus (CC) 57, Hooker (CC) 86.

Red Card: Musitano (CC) 50.

Teams: **Canberra Cosmos**: Barlow, Milin, Popovich, Polak, Winnie, Watkins, Musitano, Hamilton, Hooker, De Jesus (G Polak 67), Gonzalez (Pronovski 81).

Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Roberts (Juchniewicz 79), McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek (Tanchevski 81), Trpczewski (Smith 74), Harper, Moore.

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Adelaide Force

(Pelosi 18, Mori 45pen)

Auckland Kingz

(de Jong 29, Riddle 48, Jackson 71)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium Crowd: 5,000 Referee: G Connolly

Cautions: Pelosi (AF) 18.

Teams: **Adelaide Force**: Knezevic, Zelic, Kemp, Costanzo, Kim (Talladira 37), Sabliak, Ferguson (Veart 77), Day, Hassell, Mori, Pelosi.

Auckland Kingz: Utting (Mennillo 46), Bunce (Jones 53), Stergiopoulos, Jackson, de Jong, Middleby, Ngata, Osmaj, Vicelich, Riddle, Lines (Rufer 60).

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Gippsland Falcons

(Puca 21, Mandic 26)

Northern Spirit

Venue: Mobil Park Crowd: 2,400 Referee: C Diomis

Cautions: Mantic (GF) 21, 56, Marcina (GF) 37, Cunico (NS) 51, Casserly (NS) 52.

Red Card: Mandic (GF) 56.

Teams: **Perth Glory**: Jevdjic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, Vargas, Bell, Puca, Hutchinson, Nilo (Macnicol 70) Marcina, Mandic.

Northern Spirit: Perosh, Bingley, Casserly, Perinich, Faria, Bilokapic (Cantanzaro 79) Cunico (Moss 55), Sobczyk, Saad, Cranney, Griffiths (Seal 36).

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Melbourne Knights

(Kelic 66, 74)

Sydney Olympic

(Thomas 62)

Venue: Knights Stadium Crowd: 5,101 Referee: D Rugg

Cautions: Urlovic (MK) 6, Kelic (MK) 32, Baillie (SO) 76, Zoricich (SO) 81.

Red Card: Zoricich (SO) 89, Urlovic (MK) 89.

Teams: **Melbourne Knights**: John, Rajher (Magdic 66), Kovacevic, Kelic, Nastevski, Kiratzoglou, Urlovic, Abbas (Vargas 74), Vukadin, Susa (Vassallo 67), Cervinski.

Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Thomas (Sinozic 84), Tsekenis, Baillie, Cardozo, Emerton (Tome 82), Mendez, Wilson, Zorbas, Arambasic (Carle 72).

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LEADING GOALSCORERS

P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	9
Z Babic	(Marconi Stallions)	5
C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	5
M Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	4
I Ergic	(Perth Glory)	5
J Griffiths	(Parramatta Power)	5
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	5
D Watkins	(Canberra Cosmos)	5

